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LD0211135088 [Editorial Report]

Israel

The election results will "oblige and enable" the Likud to form the new government, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir declared in a speech broadcast by Jerusalem television.

Contending the Likud was subjected to "intimidation and slander" during the election campaign, he dismissed claims a Likud government will negate all chances for peace, stressing Likud will make every possible effort to attain peace with Israel's Arab neighbors.

He promised to work "feverishly" to form a broad coalition as soon as possible, noting that the parties which have increased their strength in the Knesset include many people with views close to the Likud.

Shamir subsequently told Jerusalem radio there is no realistic possibility of a continued coalition with the Alignment and added it is "more realistic" for Likud to form a coalition with Tehiya, Modelet, and the religious parties.

Asked whether this will mean supporting Modelet's "transfer" policy, Shamir said the coalition's guidelines do not have to include all the principles held by all its partners.

However, Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres announced he intends to sound out the religious parties on the possibility of entering a coalition with the Alignment and pointed out not all religious people have extreme rightist views.

Speaking in an interview with Jerusalem radio, Peres contended the election gave the Alignment and its allies more seats than the Likud bloc noting the balance is held by some 18 MK's of the religious parties.

In a televised speech, Peres likewise rejected "Likud's attempt to annex all the religious voters."

On the situation in the territories, Jerusalem radio noted that election day was marked by a general strike and disturbances in which two Arabs were wounded by IDF gunfire.

Arab sources cited by HADASHOT stated that nine Palestinians were wounded.

An Arab youth was killed during disturbances in Qalqilyah the following day, Jerusalem radio announced.

Lebanon

At least 4 people were killed and 10 wounded in the 1 November Israeli air raid on Palestinian targets near Sidon, Beirut radio reported, noting that a number of people were still missing.

A related AFP report disclosed that the attack targeted Fatah buildings in the Al-Miyah Wa Miyah camp area, a PFLP-GC position at 'Aramun, and DFLP facilities in Al-Na'imah.

In West Beirut, a Syrian Army sergeant was killed in a clash between Syrian soldiers and Hizballah gunmen, according to the clandestine Radio Free Lebanon.

Inter-Arab Affairs

Lebanese Issue—Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, in an address to GCC foreign ministers reported by KUNA, announced a GCC call for "a collective Arab move" to solve the current crisis in Lebanon.

Meanwhile, the PLO submitted a memorandum to the Arab League calling for collective Arab action to save Lebanon from the "acts of sabotage" of the Syrian regime, according to Palestinian sources cited by INA.

Gulf Clearing—An extraordinary session of the Gulf Marine Environment Protection Bureau affirmed the need for for measures to remove sunken ships and floating objects from the Gulf, KUNA reported.

Jordanian-Iraqi Talks—Jordan's King Husayn flew to Baghdad 2 November for talks with Iraqi President Saddam Husayn, Amman radio disclosed.

Iran-Iraq Peace Talks

The foreign ministers of Iran and Iraq have agreed to hold daily face-to-face meetings throughout the current round of talks in Geneva, IRNA reported.

After the 1 November session, UN General Secretary Javier Perez de Cuellar commented it was too early to say whether any progress had been made, but said it was a good sign that both sides agreed to the daily meetings.

In an interview with the Kuwaiti paper AL-QABAS, Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz affirmed Iraq is planning to divert the Shatt al-'Arab waterway so its mouth will be in the Al-Zubayr area, south of Basra.

He said the operation will be "neither difficult nor impossible." 'Aziz warned the Iranian leadership not to consider the cease-fire an opportunity to rally resources and resume the war, adding the peace currently prevailing is "fragile."

Meanwhile, Acting Commander in Chief of the Iranian Armed Forces 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani called on the IRGC to build up its capacity during peacetime and learn from its past fighting experience, IRNA reported.

Afghanistan

The chief of general staff of the Armed Forces announced Afghanistan has recently been equipped with modern weapons, including new long-range and "greatly effective" missiles, Kabul radio reported.

AFP noted that two Soviet-made SS-1 missiles arrived in Kabul 1 November and were taken to a military base in the center of the city.

TASS confirmed the arrival in Kabul of "powerful long-range weapons" which are for "operational-tactical" use and are being deployed in response to the deliveries of "lethal rockets" to the "extremist gangs."

The mujahidin fired nine rockets on Kabul 1 November, Kabul radio reported, while Afghan Government forces continued operations in Konduz, Qandahar, Zabol, and Paktia Provinces, killing 69 opposition troops.

According to Islamabad radio, fighting has continued for 3 days over control of the Jalalabad-Kabul highway.

An Afghan Army general claimed four U.S. advisers were killed in the fighting, AFP reported.

Resistance sources cited by XINHUA claim seven senior officials of the Kabul government were recently captured and executed, including the cousin of Interior Minister Sayyed Gulabzoy, and a commander of the secret police.

The sources also reported that Soviet guards prevented Najibullah's wife and children from leaving the country and that their attempt to flee has created a "grave sense of insecurity" among top ranking members of the ruling party.

In other developments, the Foreign Ministry summoned the Iranian charge d'affaires to protest an alleged meeting between Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati and members of the mujahidin alliance in Tehran in which he encouraged them to continue the war, Kabul radio reported.

North African Affairs

Sudan—Prime Minister al-Sadiq al-Mahdi told a news conference that the security situation in the south, particulary in eastern Equatoria and Al-Nasir, has deteriorated, Omdurman National Unity radio reported.

He said all "national energies" would be gathered to reverse recent developments in the region.

The SPLA's clandestine radio announced the fall of the fifth Army garrison in eastern Equatoria 31 October.

Tunisia—President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali appointed Habib Ammar as his special adviser and Chedli Neffati as interior minister, Tunis radio reported.

Inter-Arab Affairs

Arab Reactions to Israeli Elections Cited

JN0211125088 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1200 GMT 2 Nov 88

[Text] The Palestinian news agency, WAFA, organ of the PLO, has said that the victory of Likud is a blow to peace.

In a comment, WAFA said: We are now expecting further intransigence, hatred, and terrorism.

The PFLP said that the winning of the Likud or the Labor parties are the same because they represent the same coin of one Zionist face that is hostile to peace.

Earlier, Jordanian Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i told THE WASHINGTON POST that the victory of the Likud in the elections and the formation of a rightist government led by Yitzhaq Shamir will inevitably lead to long years of violence and maybe to a new Arab-Israeli confrontation.

In Cairo, it seems Egypt is ready to cooperate with any Israeli government for the sake of serving the peace issue. In this regard, Butrus Ghali, Egyptian minister of state for foreign affairs, said Egypt is ready to cooperate with any Israeli government for the sake of reaching an agreement on an initiative regarding a peaceful solution to the Palestine question.

UN Head Views Gulf Talks in Confidential Report

AU0111155288 Paris AFP in English 1521 GMT 1 Nov 88

[Text] Geneva, Nov 1 (AFP)—The Gulf war peace talks could be seriously undermined if Iran and Iraq fail to show goodwill during ministerial meetings starting here later Tuesday, U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar believes.

In a confidential report to the U.N. Security Council, Mr. Perez de Cuellar said Iran and Iraq had signalled agreement with five major principles, but they had failed to apply the first three points of Council Resolution 598. These call for the strict application of the cease-fire, a troop withdrawal, the dispatching of observers to monitor its application, and the exchange of prisoners of war.

Resolution 598 was adopted by the Security Council on July 20 last year and immediately accepted by Iraq, while Iran accepted it this July. It calls for a cease-fire in the eight-year-old war and withdrawal of their troops to the internationally recognized border.

Mr. Perez de Cuellar said in the report, a copy of which was obtained by AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE, that difficulties remained "concerning the timing of the withdrawal and the entry into force of a commitment regarding the freedom of navigation through the Strait of Hormuz." It was also not clear if "such a commitment should formally be part of the cease-fire understandings."

Another remaining problem concerned the Shatt al-'Arab, Iraq's only waterway linking it to the Gulf. "Iraq asks for the unimpeded clearing of the waterway under the U.N.-auspices as part of the cease-fire understandings," he said. Iran, on the other hand, was prepared to accept that clearing operations be carried out in accordance with the provisions of the existing agreements between the two countries, he added.

In earlier talks, Mr. Perez de Cuellar suggested, according to the report, that:

- Cease-fire arrangements including freedom of navigation through the Strait of Hormuz be consolidated,

- A withdrawal to internationally recognized boundaries within a timeframe of some two weeks,

- The setting into motion of a procedure for the release and repatriation of prisoners of war to be concluded within a specified timeframe, and

- The beginning of implementation of Paragraph 4 of Resolution 598, under which the urgency of proceeding with unimpeded cleaning of the Shatt al-'Arab would be clearly stressed.

Maghreb Political Committee Session Reported

PM0211091688 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 29 Oct 88 pp 1-2

[Talhah Jibril report: "Maghreb Political Committee Ends Meetings in Rabat"]

[Excerpts] Rabat, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT— Differing viewpoints between Arab Maghreb delegations at the political committee's meetings have led to the postponement of the final statement on the results of the meetings. Yet after the final session Moroccan Foreign Minister Abdellatif Filali told reporters that a statement would be issued in Fes later. He also said the subcommittees' reports have been endorsed.

The political committee held a 2-hour closed meeting. Sources which attended the meeting said the session was characterized by sharp talking. The sources said the main disagreement was over whether or not to issue a document (charter) that would prepare for signing a unity treaty.

The Tunisian delegation, headed by Hedi Baccouche, adopted the idea of issuing a charter, whereas Algeria voiced reservations about the idea. [passage omitted]

The sources said the second point of disagreement was the existence of a permanent secretariat, which was also the subject of Algerian reservations. Algeria's reservations about this point have raised certain questions, especially since Tunisia remains the party most likely to host the general secretariat.

The sources added that no name was agreed for the bloc expected to comprise the states of the region and it was decided to refer the issue to the summit.

According to the sources, the committee has entrusted the Moroccan side with formulating a preliminary plan taking account of the debates that took place at the closed sessions, provided it is prepared before December for submission to the summit. [passage omitted]

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat on 'Uprising,' Israeli Elections, Syria

JN0111203288 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1923 GMT 1 Nov 88

[Text] Brother leader Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] has affirmed that the giant popular Palestinian uprising in the chaste sacred Palestinian territory will continue and escalate until the occupation is defeated and the independent Palestinian state is established.

In his assessment of the Israeli elections in a statement published in the London-based AL-HAYAH yesterday, brother leader Abu 'Ammar said this means nothing to him. This is because our great Palestinian people do not fight for the sake of fighting and have not embarked on the uprising for the sake of uprising, but for the sake of their just objectives and their right to repatriation and self-determination.

On the collusion of the sectarian Syrian regime with the Zionist enemy against the masses of our Palestinian and Lebanese people in southern Lebanon, brother leader Abu 'Ammar said: The city of Sidon is now besieged by the Syrian forces and their agents in the north and the Zionist forces and their agents in the south.

Brother leader Abu 'Ammar added that the Zionist enemy is now speaking about an invasion to reach Al-Zahrani in the south and east from Kafr Falus until Sidon. The Zionist enemy wants to expand the border strip in accordance with the new agreement, the McFarlane-Al-Asad agreement or the Camp Murphy.

Brother leader Abu 'Ammar added that the sectarian Syrian regime has nothing to do with the Palestine question because when it stood with the Zionists in the war against the PLO and the Palestinian camps the Syrian regime ended its relationship with the Palestine question as it did in the Iraq-Iran war when it stood at the side of Iran.

PLO Urges Opposition to Syrian Role in Lebanon

JN0211122088 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1115 GMT 2 Nov 88

[Text] Tunis, 2 Nov (INA)—The Arab League has received a memorandum from the PLO regarding the Syrian regime's conspiratorial role and acts of sabotage in Lebanon.

Palestinian sources told an INA correspondent in Tunis today that the memorandum calls for an effective and serious collective Arab action to save Lebanon from the acts of sabotage of the Syrian regime which seeks to partition Lebanon and entrench its occupation.

The memorandum points to the dangers of the attempts to partition Lebanon following the Syrian regime's promotion of its alliance with the Zionist entity and the other imperialist forces in the Lebanese arena, its recent actions of tightening the grip around the Palestinian presence in Sidon, and its preparations for carrying out large-scale aggressive operations against Palestinian citizens in implementation of suspect agreements with the Zionist entity.

The Palestinian sources called for an Arab action to adopt a plan preventing the Syrian regime from carrying out its ambitions in Lebanon and expelling this regime from the Arab League if it insists on its treasonous plotting.

The sources stressed the need to hold an urgent summit to foil the Syrian regime's plot and to save Lebanon from its crisis. The sources pointed in this regard to the Syrian regime's suspect moves regarding the eruption of battles east of Sidon and around the Palestinian camps in southern Lebanon with the objective of carrying out aggressive military operations against Palestinians there. The sources called for exposing the Syrian regime's hostile practices against the Arab nation.

Military Council Meets Under 'Arafat in Baghdad

JN3110202688 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1943 GMT 31 Oct 88

[Text] Brother leader Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] this morning chaired a session of the Palestinian Military Council at the PLO's Baghdad office. The council discussed a number of political and military questions related to the latest developments in the Palestinian issue along with the Palestinian uprising and ways to escalate it.

In its first meeting this morning, the council heard a detailed political review by brother leader Abu 'Ammar of the latest developments and possibilities for the near future.

In his speech, brother leader Abu 'Ammar also reviewed the situation of the Palestinian camps in Lebanon, especially southern Lebanon, security developments

around Sidon, and the possibility of a new explosion there in the interests of partition schemes and distracting attention from our people's uprising in the occupied homeland. The council continuing its meetings tonight to discuss topics on the agenda.

PLO Options Settle on Palestinian State

JN0111124488 Baghdad INA in English 1218 GMT 1 Nov 88

[Text] Baghdad, Nov. 1, INA—A leading Palestinian official said Palestinian contingents of the Palestinian Liberation Organization have settled their options in founding a Palestinian state and postponing announcement of an interim government.

In a statement to INA Mr. 'Abd al-Rahim Ahmad, member of the PLO Executive Committee, said Palestinian leaderships will discuss during a proposed meeting in Tunis a final formula for such options to be tabled at the Palestine National Council session in Algiers on 12th next month.

The Palestinian contingents will prepare a political statement which will highlight endeavours to restore a permanent and stable peace in the region and win recognition of all concerned parties of the Palestinian people's right to live on their land.

The Palestinian official added that the option of setting up a Palestinian state and the political statement is greatly boosted by the Palestinian uprising in the occupied Arab territories which Zionist occupation failed to supress.

Mr. 'Abd al-Rahim added that Tunisia meeting of the Palestinian contingents would be centered on providing moral and material prerequisites for escalating the uprising.

PLO's Hurani on 'Outlines' of Declaration

JN0111164288 Manama WAKH in English 1610 GMT 1 Nov 88

[Text] Kuwait, Nov 1 (GNA)—The Palestine Liberation Organisation has set the general outlines of the political declaration which will be presented to the extraordinary session of the Palestine National Council, an official Palestinian source was quoted by Kuwaiti daily AL-ANBA' as saying Tuesday.

AL-ANBA' quoted 'Abdallah Hurani, member of the PLO Executive Committee as saying that the declaration would be approved in its final form the next few days.

Differences may surface from some Palestinian factions on the outlines of the declaration, but these differences would remain within the context of legality that can not overule the Palestinian decision, Hurani added.

The political declaration will take into consideration the developments brought about by the intifada on international and Arab levels and resolutions of the Arab summits in Fes and Algiers, in addition to UN resolutions in respect of the Middle East, the official indicated.

By asking the PLO for a political declaration, the intifada leadership is asking for peace and an international peace conference, Hurani said.

Concerning the petrol-bomb attack on an Israeli bus last Sunday, Hurani said that the PLO is against any attack on civilians, but at the same time will continue to struggle against the Israeli occupation.

'Uprising' Command Calls for 'Explicit' Program

JN3010134688 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1200 GMT 30 Oct 88

[Text] The Unified National Leadership of the Uprising has addressed an appeal to the PNC calling on it to adopt an explicit political program that will endorse the establishment of a just peace that will not be achieved unless a Palestinian state is established.

In its statement, the Unified National Leadership calls on Arab and Israeli voters to elect the peace forces which support the Palestinian people's right to self-determination and the establishment of an independent state.

The statement also calls on the United Nations to speed up the process for placing the occupied territories under international supervision.

PLO Official on Israeli Approval of Plot

NC3010190888 Paris AFP in English 1852 GMT 30 Oct 88

[Text] Abu Dhabi, Oct 30 (AFP)—Israeli leaders are planning to assassinate PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat and other prominent Palestinian figures, a senior official of the Palestine Liberation Organisation said here Sunday.

Bassam Abu Sharif, a close adviser to Mr. 'Arafat, told reporters in the United Arab Emirates that Israeli hit squads have been sent out around the world to carry out the plot.

Israel's Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir, Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres and Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin had all approved of the plan, he said.

The report comes amid preparations for a November 12 meeting of the Palestine National Council, or Palestinian parliament-in-exile, which is to debate plans to proclaim an independent Palestinian state.

PLO Radio Comments on Israeli Elections

JN0111195988 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1748 GMT 1 Nov 88

[News analysis by radio correspondent]

[Text] Brothers: Today, the Israelis stood confused before the ballot boxes to elect the Knesset members for the next 4 years. The Israeli voters are confused because they cannot read the letters written in secret ink between the Likud and Labor about the most serious, important issue which is facing voters for the first time for 40 years—that is, the popular Palestinian uprising on the West Bank and Gaza that has been escalating for more than 11 months against the Zionist occupation.

The uprising has disproved all Zionist illusions about the promised land. This name has become an old legend, buried under the stones of the uprising.

Judaea and Samaria have disappeared from the political dictionary to be replaced by the land of the giant Palestinian uprising that has demolished an old world to build in its place a new world—Palestinian in its roots, present, and future.

A foreign reporter said the source of this confusion is this divorce imposed by the uprising between the programs of the major Zionist parties and the reality in which the Israelis have lived throughout the year of the uprising. We believe that if the Israelis read political events well, they will be aware of the important significance of the Aqaba meeting among brother leader Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], Egyptian President Husni Mubarak, and Jordan's King Husayn as well as the Baghdad meeting among brother Abu Ammar, President Husni Mubarak, and Iraqi President Saddam Husayn.

The Israelis will also be aware of the Arab and Palestinian preparation for peace, which Shamir considered a conspiracy against the Likud on the eve of the elections and which Peres considered good intentions toward peace.

This Arab and Palestinian preparation for peace is different in terms of content and subject from all previous Arab attempts in the same direction. The central point in these meetings is the Palestinian party, the PLO.

We believe this presence of the PLO and its chairman means that the Arab options, as Arab politics, no longer exist.

There is one option only raised by the Arabs, that is, the Palestinian option based on achieving the national Palestinian program in its basic links.

These links are ending the Zionist occupation of the West Bank and Gaza; the Palestinian people's right to self-determination; and the establishment of the independent Palestinian state on Palestinian soil under the leadership of the PLO.

The Aqaba and Baghdad meetings on the eve of the Israeli elections are an Arab authorization to the PLO, not a Palestinian authorization to anybody to revive any role.

There is no room for talking about a new agreement with anybody in accordance with prevailing relations among powers that have changed thanks to the uprising and the new situations it has created.

The talk now is about the central Palestinian role, the role of the uprising and the PLO in any process to search for peace.

Hence, we say the Israeli elections are in fact the elections of the uprising. The new course established by the uprising in Palestine will remain, whether those who will arrive in the Knesset have realized before others the reality of the new situation or are hard-liners.

The new course created by the uprising will continue. No force on earth can stop the uprising now before achieving its political goals.

We believe that the Likud and Labor members who now talk about a transitional period or free elections on the West Bank and Gaza are admitting, in their own way, the impossibility of continuing the occupation and finding an Arab partner. They are trying, in vain, to find solutions to contain the uprising and the national rights of our Palestinian people.

There will be no solutions to contain the uprising or bypass our national rights. The stones of the uprising have toppled all external alternatives. The only path left for peace in the Middle East and Palestine is the Palestinian solution and peace.

The Israelis should know the facts facing them. The uprising is a firm fact, which will continue to change the situation. The coming PNC session to be held on 12 November will announce Palestinian independence, the establishment of the independent Palestinian state, and the Palestinian peace program based on attaining inalienable national rights, that is, repatriation, self-determination, and the establishment of an independent state.

The Palestinian program will firmly link our national Palestinian rights and the resolutions of international legitimacy to convene an international peace conference on the Middle East.

If the Israeli voters do not understand these situations and new facts produced by the uprising, which have become an imposed reality, they should face the uprising in the stage of the great challenge.

We say at last there will be no surprises if the Likud or Labor wins in the Knesset elections today. The uprising is solid, paving its path. It is now approaching its 12th month to complete the 1st year of its long age.

The only way open to the Israelis is a historical retreat before the historic Palestinian uprising.

PLO Issues Call to 'Israeli Public Opinion'

JN3010171288 Kuwait AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM in Arabic 29 Oct 88 p 23

[Text] The Unified National Leadership of the Uprising in the occupied territories has proved there is no option other than the Palestinian option represented by the PLO, our people's sole legitimate representative wherever they may be, that there will be no peace unless our Palestinian people are given their legitimate rights, and that any attempt to separate our masses in the occupied territories from their brothers outside these territories will fail.

This came in a special call to the Israeli public opinion issued yesterday by the Unified National Leadership of the Uprising. The following is the text of the call:

To the masses of Israeli public opinion and to everyone who loves just and honorable peace for the region's peoples and countries. Over the past 21 years of the Israeli occupation of the West Bank and Gaza, the issue of occupation and peace has not been a focus of your electoral and living interests as it is today.

Similarly, your eagerness to recognize what our Palestinian people want and what our extraordinary PNC, the popular uprising's conference, will decide has not been so clear as it is at this historic period.

This period is witnessing growing efforts in favor of the policy of interenational detente, attempts to solve regional disputes through peaceful means, and a continuous insistence of the masses of our people on regaining their legitimate and just rights and achieving a comprehensive and lasting peace for all of the region's peoples and countries.

Instead of telling the bright truth as it is, their government officials are trying to undermine all the initiatives aimed at ending our bloody conflict in an honorable and just way, purposely distorting our people's blessed uprising and its goals and democratic and peaceful character, escalating their repressive campaigns, violating the simplest human rights and laws that protect children, women, and old people, and exerting efforts to instill despair in our people and destroy their uprising.

We would like you to be sure that repression and terrorism being exercised by your army and government against our peaceful people prove their failure everyday as a result of the escalating uprising of our people and will not bring about any sort of peaceful coexistence between the occupation authority and our people.

The only way to a guaranteed peace is to recognize our Palestinian people's legitimate rights, including their right to self-determination, repatriation, and the establishment of their independent state on the West Bank and Gaza Strip, and to achieve mutual security for the region's countries and peoples.

Contrary to their government officials' accusations against us, we would like to affirm to you in the name of our people that our blessed uprising has come as an expression of our people' rejection of the occupation and their insistence on regaining their freedom and independence and living an honorable life like other free peoples who enjoy sovereignty.

It is also an expression of our persistent effort to achieve just peace and security for everyone. The uprising's slogan is clear. It stresses the need for Israel to withdraw from the territories occupied in 1967 so we can establish our Palestinian state on them.

By this, we would like to remove your justification for blessing your army's repression and terrorism in the occupied territories, for exploiting all the strange guises and your government officials' distorted portrayals of our people and their uprising, and to urge every conscientious person to defend his humanism, before anything else, against the occupation's repressive practices, which do not differ much from the sufferings of the victims of nazism during its unjust occupation of many countries.

The Israelis should not say they did not know. The repressive and terrorist practices are clear before the whole world. The uprising has proved the failure of the policy of military expansion, terrorism, and threats with deportation as well as all the other options, which they tried to impose on our people such as autonomy, sharing responsibility, and so forth.

These practices also proved there is no option other than the Palestinian option represented by the PLO, the sole legitimate representative of our people wherever they may be and that the only way to a just peace is to recognize our people's legitimate rights and hold negotiations with the PLO, their sole legitimate representative, within an effective international conference.

Just as we do not want to dictate the identity of the Israeli representative at the conference, our people adhere to their right to select their representatives.

The PLO is the sole legitimate representative of all our people inside and outside the occupied territories and there will be no peace unless our people are given their legitimate rights.

Any search for an alternative to the PLO is a waste of time and useless and any attempt to separate our masses inside the occupied teritorioes from their brothers outside these territories will fail.

Call to Arab Voter in Galilee, Triangle, Negev

JN3010204188 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1915 GMT 3O Oct 88

["Call to the Arab voter in Galilee, the Triangle, and the Negev"]

[Text] To our steadfast, heroic people in the Galilee, the Triangle, and the Negev. To our enlightened youth, to our valiant men [words indistinct] Gaza, Shafa 'Amr, Umm al-Fahm, Al-Taiyiba, Baqa, and Sikhnin, and in every village and city and in every quarter of our Palestinian quarters throughout the dear, beloved homeland:

Today and tomorrow are the remaining days for the beginning of the elections fought by the blocs, forces, parties, and trends in the Israeli entity with wholehearted dedication. This is because the uprising, the heroic, blessed uprising of your people, is the major concern, the focus of attention, and the central, bright point.

Around this uprising, the blessed uprising of your people, the conflict is being escalated to the maximum.

The arrogant, rancorous Zionists, such as Shamir, Sharon, and the rest of the chorus of rancor and terrorism, are escalating, to a very high degree, the campaigns of bloody repression in which they use all kinds of live, rubber, plastic, and glass bullets.

They also use fatal gas, demolish houses, torture your brothers in prisons, and deport and expel your people from their villages and cities. They are not satisfied with this. Therefore, they are escalating their threats and intimidation to use more violent and brutal measures if they assume power in the Israeli entity.

In confrontation of all this, and amid this raging conflict, your people, kinfolk, and brothers—men, women, and children—are rising in a miraculous heroism throughout every village, city, camp, and place in the valiant West Bank and the lofty Gaza Strip, in Gaza, Jerusalem, Nabulus, Hebron, Bethlehem, Ramallah, Tulkarm, Janin, Qalqilyah, Qabatiyah, Jericho, and in every position, to make the epic of resistance and to participate in a very creatively in this blessed uprising.

Since the 1st day, O our steadfast, hero people in the Galilee, the Triangle, and the Negev, you have been the helper and the support of your people and brothers.

You have been the strong support that is full of national love. You have expressed the unity of all the people, the homeland, the objective, and destiny.

Today, while you are going to the elections in full seriousness and with a high awareness of national responsibility, effectively participating in these elections and giving your votes to where they should be—this participation constitutes your prominent role in supporting the uprising, extending aid to it, and backing its just objectives of ending the occupation and achieving national independence.

O our brave generations in the Galilee, the Triangle, and the Negev. O all our true people throughout the beloved homeland, your role today is extremely important and effective.

Let us not abstain from playing this role in full and with all awareness of national responsibility. This is because the battle of elections is an extremely serious battle.

It is our sacred and national duty, and our most important genuine national affiliation, to go comprehensively to elections, to give our votes to where they should be, and to let the rancorous Zionists, who are continuing to perpetrate massacres and who are threatening to perpetrate further massacres, know they will never take from us a single vote and will not climb on our votes to murder our people so long as we are vibrant with life.

Greetings to you, O our valiant people. God's victory is near.

South Asian Regional Affairs

SAARC Meeting Opens in Kathmandu 1 Nov

BK0211005588 Hong Kong AFP in English 2014 GMT 1 Nov 88

[Text] Kathmandu, Nov 1 (AFP)—Nepalese Prime Minister Marich Man Singh Shrestha inaugurated here Tuesday a three-day high-level meeting of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC).

More than 40 officials from SAARC members Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, the Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka are to discuss measures to provide benefits for the region, officials said.

In his inaugural speech, Mr. Shrestha said regional cooperation had become a reality in South Asia. "We can justifiably take pride in the fact that the SAARC framework has provided new opportunities to create a constructive process in generating an environment of mutual trust, goodwill and understanding so essential for peace, progress and stability in our region," Mr Shrestha said.

Nepalese Finance Minister Bharat Bahadur Pradhan chaired the inaugural function. Mr Pradhan said he hoped the SAARC meeting would result in recommendations about ways in which regional cooperation within SAARC could further meet the basic needs of the region's people by the end of the century.

SAARC Secretary General Abdul Ahsan also noted the importance of the meeting in the run-up to the fourth SAARC summit, scheduled for December 29-31 in Islamabad.

Algeria

Foreign Minister Ibrahimi Addresses UN Assembly

PM0111122688 Algiers EL MOUDJAHID in French 7-8 Oct 88 pp 10-11

["Text" of speech by Foreign Minister Ahmed Taleb Ibrahimi to UN General Assembly in New York on 6 October]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] As I said on this platform when addressing this assembly last year, the contribution which we intend to make to collective peace efforts is the building of the Greater Arab Maghreb.

Since I spoke to you, this undertaking which unites us with our partners in the region has been launched and—I can tell you—well launched. In this connection, the Maghreb summit in Algiers last June was the starting point for methodical action which we will jointly take, investing in it the imagination, determination, and means it requires.

Our peoples and our countries have waited so long that our main concern is now bound to be to make up for lost time; we are determined to do this and have the ability to do it.

At present, we are working to provide this Maghreb entity with institutions, cadres, and with the necessary mechanisms for organizing political consultation and economic integration on rational and progressive bases without missing any opportunity to make progress.

The process of Maghreb unity has been started, and we are maintaining its impetus on the strength of a political will which is free from ulterior motives or reservations.

For the first time in its long history, all the objective conditions for the unity of the Greater Maghreb have been established.

However, we are aware of obstacles on our path. We will resolutely face them because we have no other choice at a time when developments in the world require us to unite our forces and resources.

Nobody doubts that the settlement of the West Sahara conflict will help to speed up the course of building Maghreb unity.

The decision by Morocco and the Polisario to accept in principle the proposals made to them by the OAU chairman and the UN secretary general, and which relate to the conditions for holding a self-determination referendum in the West Sahara, augurs well in this context.

It is legitimate that any people which gives their lives for freedom should at least win the right to choose. It is right that the West Saharan people should decide their future. The international community has understood that and the consensus reached within the OAU, the Nonaligned Movement, and within this assembly clearly and rigorously establishes the conditions for settling the West Sahara conflict.

This consensus has taken the form of Resolution 104, which the conference of OAU heads of state and government adopted in Addis Ababa in 1983. This resolution, ratified by our organization's General Assembly, is the basis of the joint UN-OAU good offices mission.

Direct negotiations on a cease-fire and the organization of the referendum—a referendum on self- determination held without administrative or military constraints—are the two essential elements whose implementation will provide the expected just and lasting solution to the West Saharan conflict.

Those who are now fighting must be able to talk to each other in the future, and it is a good thing for the Moroccans and Saharans to approach the referendum hand-in-hand and not back-to-back. Through fraternal dialogue, they will gain fraternal reconciliation, and this will give the Maghreb greater stability, security, and unity.

Mr Chairman, in the Middle East, the Palestinian people's tragedy is unchanged and is unaffected by the wave of peace which has eased other crises, conflicts, and tensions. And yet, the Palestinian people's tragedy is still the tragedy of this century.

The uprising in occupied Palestine reminds us that Palestinian national identity lives on, that the Palestinian people have not abandoned their national rights, and that their demand for their own state on the land stolen from them will not be defeated.

This uprising also points to the preconditions for a just and lasting peace in the Middle East. The extraordinary Arab summit which met in Algiers last June defined the joint Arab stance on the nature, power, participation, and objectives of the international Middle East peace conference.

Because the Palestinian question is at the heart of the conflict in this region, the international peace conference would be failing in its vocation if it did not see it as such and handle it accordingly.

Trying to reduce the Arab-Zionist conflict to a series of bilateral territorial or security disputes and hence trying to conceal the central Palestinian issue in this conflict, is a recipe for deadlock.

The Palestinian people have chosen those who are capable of speaking in their name and expressing their aspirations. The PLO, their sole legitimate representative, cannot be robbed of its place at the international peace conference and, from this viewpoint too, attempts to seek alternative representatives will be futile.

Finally, because all attempts to seek an alternative homeland for the Palestinian people have met with the result which we all know, it will have to be admitted that this people's future can only be built in Palestine—their historical homeland. [passage omitted]

Mr Chairman, addressing the Group of 77 a few days ago, I put forward a few ideas on international economic relations, which I would like to share with you in this assembly.

In that speech, I remarked that the real path to real peace would be one in which all the world's peoples would win their right to development at the same time as their right to equal security.

I also remarked that the authentic peace which we want should not be simply the kind of peace which will save mankind from destruction, but the kind of peace which will guarantee it the means of definite and decent survival.

Finally, I pointed out that mankind will one day stop gambling with its own destruction and build life, and development will become the new name for peace and will be the key to it.

In the light of these observations, I made some points and drew some conclusions, which I will present as follows:

First, my observations:

1—First, underdevelopment is now the worst kind of war which mankind is waging against itself. Do not more people die from famine, malnutrition, epidemics, and lack of medical infrastructures than from open armed conflicts? It is certainly true that more people die from underdevelopment than from war.

2—Second, underdevelopment is, and, in the absence of solutions, will increasingly be, a real threat to peace and international security on the same basis as open armed conflicts. Does this not mean that the international community should take action to halt a process which is so dangerous for the future?

3—Furthermore, the international community must mobilize to ensure the triumph of human rights. Yes, we must mobilize to ensure that no citizen in this world is deprived of his civil rights, the right to express his views, the right to assemble, the right to be heard, and to defend himself in the name of his legally recognized rights.

Yes, we must mobilize to ensure that no citizen in this world dies as a result of having his rights denied. However, I would like to add to all these rights a duty which unfortunately is still lacking—the duty to act in an equally scrupulous and diligent way to ensure that no citizen in this world dies or suffers as a result of a failure to satisfy his vital needs.

We have taken joint action to ensure that development is expressed in terms of a right for our peoples. I would now like to add that the right of peoples to development is an integral part of human rights, because underdevelopment is a matter of life and death. This implies collective solidarity and responsibility.

4—Finally, at a time when we are welcoming the progress made by mankind in the disarmament sphere, let us not forget that, although a great deal remains to be done in that sphere, the most difficult thing we still have to tackle is underdevelopment and all it involves.

Second, my conclusions:

1—There is a very real crisis in international economic relations. The developed world thought it had found its own temporary palliatives, but those palliatives are the result of a shortsighted view.

Growing interdependence teaches us that development and underdevelopment interreact and that the panacea about which we were taught is no longer viable, and this means that separating development from underdevelopment and attributing the former to the abilities of some people and the latter to the neglect and incompetence of others, is unacceptable. There is now a system in which development feeds from and perpetuates underdevelopment.

2—Of course, changes are being made and alternatives sought to ensure that our countries' underdevelopment ceases to feed the development of those countries which established the ruling system and use it to attain objectives which they set and still set.

This is precisely the shortsighted view. This North-South split is intolerable and it will become increasingly intolerable. As East and West become more united, it will become increasingly obvious that the future of peace depends on the underdevelopment question.

3—Underdevelopment has economic costs, but more especially political and social costs, and we are paying those costs. But how much must we pay? This is a vital question to which everybody should pay attention. As members of the international community, we have accepted the responsibility of taking the necessary steps to put our own house in order.

We admit these measures have produced good results. But they are clearly not enough, far from it. The structural adjustments which have been recommended to or imposed on our countries are not and cannot be a panacea for underdevelopment. This is certainly not the case.

4—Factors over which our countries had no control played and are playing a role in creating underdevelopment. The international climate acted as a handicap, and is still doing so. Internal structural changes will only have an effect if they are also made at global level.

The present system of international economic relations destroys all our hard-won achievements—be it a healthy budget, payment for raw materials exports, access to international trade, currency, finance, or technology.

This system must change.

Such a change should be an integral part of all the current changes in world relations at global or regional level. Global peace cannot make do with a two-speed international approach in which the question of international security takes precedence and the question of development is relegated to a minor position.

There must be an overall approach and we must adopt it with the vital aim of eradicating all existing imbalances.

Do the signs of hope reaching us from many quarters herald a new age of reason? Yes, if mankind finally accepts the most essential thing—a shared universal conscience.

Abdelhamid Mehri Discusses Democratic Practice

LD0111121088 Algiers Television Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 31 Oct 88

[Interview with Abdelhamid Mehri, head of the FLN Central Committee Permanent Secretariat, by unidentified studio interviewer in Algiers—live]

[Text] [Interviewer] Mr Abdelhamid Mehri, you were recently appointed the head of the Central Committee Permanent Secretariat. Do you have an initial statement to make?

[Mehri] The first statement that comes to mind at the moment is that tomorrow we will celebrate the 1 November anniversary. First, I present my congratulations to the entire Algerian people and all militants of the FLN, and my wishes that the forthcoming period will be one in which the system of government that we inherited from the period of the armed struggle and construction will be a system in which the democratic practice is available in the widest sense.

I also hope that the FLN militants, who have shouldered the burden of liberating the country, will be in the vanguard of developing this system into one that gathers round itself all the good forces in the country to face up to the battles awaiting us.

[Interviewer] Mr Abdelhamid Mehri, in your remarks just now, you have talked about practising democracy in the widest sense. However, the meaning of democracy could be different to different people.

How are we to reach the democracy meant by your statement?

[Mehri] I am repeating what the brother president of the Republic and general secretary of the party has noted. [Words indistinct] to remove the monopoly of power which was theoretically supposed to be exclusively with the FLN militants, although in reality it was not only the militants who had assumed responsibility.

However, responsibilities within the state will not remain exclusively in the hands of the militants, so that every citizen has the right to vote and also to nominate himself for all elected councils.

This is an expression of direct democracy at the level of all elected councils, whether municipal and provincial, and also in the National People's Assembly. This is an essential step.

It also manifests itself in the fact that the main social forces have rights. And they have these rights without the precondition of being members of the party before assuming the leadership of these organizations. This means freedom of organization, freedom of discharge of duties, and freedom of supervision in all social and cultural organizations.

There are two aspects of the democratic practice, however. This exercise should be all-embracing so as to spread to all institutions and it should be followed by people's supervision, which is essential, through people's representatives. This applies at the central, municipal, and provincial levels.

[Interviewer] Hence we can consider the referendum, which is now imminent, as another expression of this democracy which we want to prevail in our life.

[Mehri] The first step on this path is the distribution of responsibilities at the central level. There were certain responsibilities with the president of the Republic which he will transfer to the head of government, and the prime minister becomes accountable directly to the people's representatives, namely the National People's Assembly.

This represents a transfer of great responsibilities concerning the running of the country to a government directly responsible to the people's representatives.

Naturally, this is only one step to be followed by many others, particularly at the level of renewing the people's councils which will be held in 1989.

In fact the great openness concerns the transformation of the party itself in its relation to the state and in its composition. Its composition should be so as not to keep it exclusively for the existing militants in it, but it should be a force that holds dialogue with all other vital forces in the country.

All of them would form a group or a front similar to what was existing during the armed struggle. This means a front that includes most of the pro-people elements

which are committed to the need to develop Algeria and to the building of a prosperous Algeria, an Algeria with social justice and prosperity through the work and efforts of its own sons and their reliance on themselves.

[Interviewer] Mr Abdelhamid, could we learn from you what will be the consequences of the referendum and the whole course?

[Mehri] The consequence of the referendum, naturally, will be to change the shape of government. This means that the prime minister, who is chosen by the president of the Republic, would choose the members of his government and present them to the National People's Assembly.

He will present his program to the National People's Assembly, and then the National People's Assembly would give him the vote of confidence if it was convinced by his policy and by the composition of his government.

In other words if it has the qualities that make it capable of implementing this policy. Then he becomes accountable before the National People's Assembly, which has the right to question him and ask him to present an account of the work of the government each year. This is the first step on the road of establishing new rules for democratic practice.

A second amendment to the Constitution, after the congress, would follow which will divest the party of the responsibility—although legally speaking, this is sometimes nominal—of being the sole ruler. It will remove the party from this situation, leaving the democratic practice to decide where to assign the responsibilities.

The front becomes, as it was during the war of liberation, a factor for regrouping, gathering, and unifying Algerians who work for the interest of their country.

[Interviewer] Mr Abdelhamid, thank you for these clarifications. We ask you to say, if you like, a last few words on the subject.

[Mehri] A last few words. I address myself to all FLN militants and to all citizens to take part in the referendum, because it would be evidence of their preparedness for the democratic practice.

The practice of democracy is a number of little things; when there is a referendum on a national issue, the people should express their opinion and should not undervalue the law-given right to vote.

It is the duty of the FLN militants is to be in the vanguard of this change. And I believe they are fully aware of the importance of this.

Ministry Says Prisoner Release Set for 2 Nov

LD0111212888 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 1 Nov 88

[Excerpt] The Ministry of Justice has stressed that the measures related to the provisional release of the all those who were arrested because of the recent events will be implemented tomorrow, Wednesday. [passage omitted]

Egypt

'Abd al-Majid on Israeli Election Outcome

NC0211122688 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1155 GMT 2 Nov 88

[Excerpt] Cairo, 2 Nov (MENA)—Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, asserted today that Egypt will deal with any new Israeli government chosen by its people to assume control of the situation in that country, because this is a purely internal Israeli matter.

Dr 'Abd al-Majid also stressed that Egypt is eager to continue the peace march with the aim of bringing stability to the region. He pointed out that Egypt, for its part, will make every possible effort in this regard.

The foreign minister added that Egypt hopes that the new Israeli government will follow the same course, so the regional countries may enjoy peaceful coexistence and so a just solution to the Palestinian issue may be reached. He stressed that joint efforts could thus be steered toward development and eliminating terrorism.

Dr 'Abd al-Majid noted that we have been following up the results of the Israeli elections, which we view as a reflection of the will of the Israeli voters. He pointed out that it is now up to the various Israeli parties to form a new government in Israel. [passage omitted]

Ghali Comments on Results

NC0211111288 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1100 GMT 2 Nov 88

[Text] Commenting on the results of the Israeli elections, Dr Butrus Ghali, minister of state of foreign affairs, told a radio correspondent that Egypt will deal with any new Israeli government to maintain the drive for peace and reach a peaceful settlement of the Palestinian issue, based on the principle of self-determination.

Abu Ghazalah on Military Talks With U.S.

NC0111140188 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1205 GMT 1 Nov 88

[Text] Cairo, 1 Nov (MENA)—The Egyptian-U.S. military talks opened in Cairo this morning. They are being led by Field Marshal Muhammad 'Abd al-Halim Abu Ghazalah, deputy prime minister and minister of defense and war production, and U.S. Secretary of Defense Frank Carlucci, who arrived in Cairo yesterday.

Lieutenant General Safiy al-Din Abu Shinaf, chief of staff of the Armed Forces, commanders of other Egyptian services, as well as members of the U.S. delegation accompanying Carlucci are also attending the talks.

At the beginning of the talks, Field Marshal Abu Ghazalah welcomed the U.S. secretary and declared that military cooperation between the two countries has not encountered any problems.

At the end of the round of talks, Field Marshal Abu Ghazalah and Frank Carlucci signed the technical protocol for implementing the agreement on the joint production of the M1A1 tank, which includes the phases of manufacturing the tank in Egypt.

Following the session, Field Marshal Abu Ghazalah said that this protocol represents the great cooperation between Egypt and the United States and is a new opening for the Egyptian heavy military industry. He said that financing for the manufacture of the tank will be taken wholly from the U.S. military aid to Egypt through the program of U.S. foreign military sales.

Abu Ghazalah added that the ratio of Egyptian to U.S. components in the tank will begin at 40:60 and will gradually increase until it reaches 75:25. He said that the full implementation of [words indistinct] will take around 3 years and that the tank will enter service in the Armed Forces next year. He noted that production will start with assembly of the tank, and this phase will be followed by the manufacturing phase.

He said: We started to build the factory 3 years ago by installing the machines that can produce any type of tanks, and in this last stage we installed the special machines for producing the M1A1 tank.

Field Marshal Abu Ghazalah noted that the Egyptian tank factory would cost less than buying 525 tanks; that is, the price of the plant and the tanks would be less than the cost of importing them. This is in addition to the fact that the plant will overhaul the M60A3 tank and the M113 armored vehicles. In the future the plant will produce armored vehicles after it is decided which particular type will be manufactured in Egypt.

He added that $250 million have so far been spent on the plant within the framework of the 5-year plan to re-equip the Armed Forces. He said that the only part that will not be made in Egypt is the material used to make the shield, as this is a secret that no country allows to become known. In addtion to this, he said, the manufacture of fire control systems in Egypt is not economical, but the remaining components of the tank, around 90 per cent of it, can be made in Egypt.

Field Marshal Abu Ghazalah also said that the United States will obtain $40 million worth of Egyptian military production, including parts for the TPS-63 radar which are made in Egypt.

He added: We are working with the American side on producing a number of advanced missile systems, including the Dragon-3 antitank missile, which is a joint project that will be made in both countries and which no side can export without the other side's permission, as well as advanced air-to-air, air-to-surface, and surface-to-air missiles.

Regarding submarines and misile boats, Field Marshal Abu Ghazalah said: We are working together on joint projects. The U.S. delegation informed us today that they have completed the production of an "Avenger" mine hunter that meets our requirements, and they expressed their willingness to supply us with this type of submarine.

Carlucci Departs After Talks

NC0211141488 Cairo MENA in English 1411 GMT 2 Nov 88

[Text] Cairo, Nov 2 (MENA)—U.S. Defence Secretary Frank Carlucci left here this afternoon at the end of a two-day visit to Egypt, during which he met with President Husni Mubarak and Field Marshal Muhammad 'Abd al-Halim Abu Ghazalah, deputy premier and minister of defence and military production.

Carlucci was seen off at the airport by Field Marshal Abu Ghazalah.

Carlucci arrived here on Monday from Amman on a visit within the context of a current tour of the area.

Marshal Abu Ghazalah Denies Smuggling Charges

PM0211095488 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 31 Oct 88 pp 1,2

[Talhah Jibril report: "Marshal Abu Ghazalah Tells AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT: Claims Linking Me to Smuggling Case are Air Bubbles"]

[Text] Rabat—Egyptian Defense Minister Marshal 'Abd al-Halim Abu Ghazalah has categorically denied reports linking him and other Egyptian officials to the case of the smuggling of banned U.S. military materials used in the manufacture of missiles.

Answering a question by AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT, he said: These reports are unfounded.

The defense counsel for the U.S. engineer of Egyptian origin accused of handing these materials over to the Egyptian military attache in Washington, had stated that Marshal Abu Ghazalah might be connected with the matter.

Commenting on this, Marshal Abu Ghazalah said that lawyers sometimes use illegal methods to clear the defendant. He added that, contrary to claims made in certain press reports, the case in question was not one of espionage.

He expressed the belief that a certain "lobby" in the United States exaggerated the issue to undermine U.S.-Egyptian relations, which he described as good.

He maintained that the target of the campaign was neither the defense minister nor the engineer himself. The aim, he said, is to prejudice U.S.-Egyptian ties. He noted that what the engineer did was akin to a customs smuggling operation, not espionage.

The claims made by U.S. lawyers, Abu Ghazalah maintained, were nothing more than air bubbles made to magnify the issue and influence the court. He ridiculed the claims that Egyptian officials were behind the smuggling of these materials. We are not so naive, he said, as to discuss the matter over the phone if we wanted to engage in such operations.

Meanwhile, in a statement before leaving Rabat at the conclusion of his official visit to Morocco, Abu Ghazalah, answering a question about fears of renewal of the Iraq-Iran war, said: "Everything is possible, but if Iran is sincere then there should be no such fears. If it is a matter of playing for time until the Armed Forces are rebuilt, then anything is possible."

Abu Ghazalah said he hopes the war will not flare up again because, apart from the human losses, the material cost of the war has been $454 billion, a sum which, if spent on the Arab world, would have made any Arab village better than Bern or Geneva.

On the effect of the Palestinian uprising on the strategic situation in the region, Marshal Abu Ghazalah said the uprising put a new force on the map, with clear strategic implications. He added that seizure of territory by force was unaacceptable and that anyone interested in real peace must recognize the legitimate rights of all parties concerned.

Peace, he said, cannot be dictated because everyone wants his freedom and free will. The uprising, he said, has had a great impact both inside Israel and at the international level.

Answering a question on military production and Egyptian-Moroccan joint exercises, Abu Ghazalah said: We only discussed generalities. Details will be tackled at future meetings.

He added that there was nothing to prevent cooperation, whether in military production or training.

Air Force Commander on Armaments, Activity

JN0111192688 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 31 Oct 88 p 3

[Interview with General 'Ala' Barakat, Air Force commander, by Muhammad 'Abd al-Mun'im—date, place not given]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] ['Abd al-Mun'im] The Air Force has had a new armament and development policy for years. What has been achieved in this regard?

[Barakat] It is no secret the the policy adopted by the Air Force is based on diversifying the sources of weapons. This policy has become a firm principle because the Air Force has suffered from depending on one source, which has the right to give or withold. This negatively affects our freedom and movement, because the source usualy asks that our policy be in line with its policy and goals.

Therefore, we have dealt with several sources to preserve our freedom. We have achieved much, and I would like to add that any weapon selected by the Armed Forces in general and the Air Force in particular is viewed as a passport in all the region's countries.

['Abd al-Mun'im] What was the operations range of our Air Force in 1973, and the operations range now?

[Barakat] [Passage omitted] After our development of them, the majority of our warplanes have a tactical range of 180-250 km. But the tactical range of most of our planes now covers the most threatening elements to which we may be exposed.

As most of these planes can be refueled in the air, you can imagine the operational range of our planes now. The current situation cannot be compared with the one before 1973.

['Abd al-Mun'im] What does the 14-year-old peace mean to our Air Force?

[Barakat] There is no great difference between the activity of the Air Force in peacetime and its activity in wartime. [passage omitted] I do not deny that the Air Force has exploited the period of peace soundly to develop and modernize its weapons. This is the immortal equation of the Air Force's activity.

In other words, it continues to balance quality and the quantity on the basis of scientific studies and experience. Undoubtedly, we would not have achieved this had there been no peace.

['Abd al-Mun'im] What is the most importrant news about the Air Force in 1988 and the next stage?

[Barakat] It is difficult for even the richest air force to bring out new equipment every year. No new weapon or equipment appears before 3-5 years of study and planning to get it.

The Air Force signed an agreement this year to obtain a number of modern F-16's, and it will also sign an agreement soon to obtain tankers to refuel warplanes in the air. [passage omitted]

Mubarak Receives Undugo Conference Delegation

NC0111141688 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 1 Nov 88

[Text] President Muhammad Husni Mubarak received a delegation representing the Undugo [grouping of Nile Basin countries] conference at the presidential palace in Heliopolis at noon today. Dr Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, also attended the meeting.

The Zairian minister of state for foreign affairs, a member of the delegation, said he was pleased to meet with President Mubarak. He stated that the president had referred to the progress that the Undugo countries can make at their current session.

He added that President Mubarak supports the Undugo grouping and encourages all its activities. He noted that the grouping was established 5 years ago through an initiative by Egypt and the other member states.

Answering a question about Undugo's role where African leaders are concerned, the Zairian minister of state said that this grouping represents an advisory and nonofficial group in the context of African affairs. It carries out a supporting role for the OAU in the political and economic spheres, he said. It also offers advice to regional organizations.

He added that the grouping has made contributions in the fields of transportation, communications, data, and energy. It holds consultations on topical issues, primarily in Africa, but also discusses current international events.

He remarked that Undugo has also directed its efforts toward the protection of the Nile waters from pollution, noting that this is one of it research activities.

PRC Deputy Foreign Minister To Meet Officials

NC0111155388 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1435 GMT 1 Nov 88

[Text] Cairo, 1 Nov (MENA)—Tomorrow, Wednesday, Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, will receive the visiting delegation led by Chinese Deputy Foreign Minister Yang Fuchang here in Cairo.

Ambassador Wafa' Hijazi, assistant foreign minister, who led the Egyptian delegation in the Egyptian-Chinese talks which began today, has described the discussions as a continuation of the long dialogue between Egypt and the PRC over all issues that concern the two countries, notably regional issues, the Middle East question, the Iraq-Iran peace negotiations, and the Afghan and Cambodian issues.

Hijazi pointed out that in this respect, the PRC stance is one that supports and adopts Arab causes, foremost of which is the Palestinian issue. Hijazi added that the PRC is one of the countries which support the idea of holding an international conference to discuss peace in the region which would be attended by all concerned partes, including the PLO in its capacity as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

Chinese Deputy Foreign Minister Yang Fuchang stated that he exchanged views today with Egyptian officials on the international situation, particularly the situation in the Middle East.

He said that Egypt and the PRC agree that the current international detente works in favor of regional issues, notably the Palestinian question. He noted that his country supports the Palestinian people's just struggle and the Palestinian uprising.

He expressed hope that the PNC will succeed in achieving its objectives during its coming meeting this month. He declared that the Palestinian uprising has given impetus to the cause and demonstrated the failure of the Israeli occupation policy.

The Chinese official stressed the need for a change in Israeli policy so peace may be attained in the region.

'Sources' Cited on Negotiations With IMF

PM0111121688 Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic 25 Oct 88 pp 1-2

[Fikri 'Abd al-Muttalib report: "New Conditions for Release of Foreign Loans"]

[Excerpts] Government economic sources have described the negotiations that began yesterday with the IMF delegation as a preliminary round within a series of new rounds of talks aimed at securing the desired agreement with the IMF.

The sources emphasized that the new round will not produce the agreement that some papers are talking about, but will deal with the IMF's view of the proposals that Egypt submitted 2 months ago regarding ways of handling the deficit in the overall budget and the balance of payments. So a lifting of the ban on the loans frozen by the IMF, which total $963.5 million, will not be discussed.

The sources revealed that current negotiations are characterized by the utmost flexibility on both sides with a view to formulating a joint view of the basis on which an Egyptian letter of intent addressed to the IMF can be drafted. [passage omitted]

According to the sources, the loans the World Bank has frozen over the past 3 years ($800 million) will be released gradually, but this will depend on Egypt's commitment to the clauses of the "backing agreement," which includes the Egyptian "letter of intent." [passage omitted]

Meanwhile, some experts have warned against the government's acceptance of the IMF's request to devalue the local currency further, though it has already been substantially devalued and the the free exchange market prices have been applied with regard to foreign currency.

Libya

Foreign Secretary Visits African Leaders

LD2810030688 Tripoli JANA in English 1822 GMT 27 Oct 88

[Quotation marks as received]

[Text] Tripoli, Al-Tumur [October] 27, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—The secretary of the People's Committee for Foreign Liaison Bureau paid recently visit to Liberia, Gabon and Mali within the framework of improving relations amongst various countries of the African continent where he handed letters from the leader to the heads of those states.

During this visit, he was received by President Samuel Doe of Liberia who gave a speech addressing some journalists and audience saying: "I am happy to receive you today. We are ready to develop our relations with the peace-loving states. We are indebted with thanks to the aid Libya had offered to us and we are ready to do whatever accomplishes the aims of our two countries and peoples.

President Samuel Doe, addressing the secretary said; "Your presence here proves that my brother Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi is ready and anxious to strengthen the relations. I wish you success in this endeavour for the future of our two countries".

He added; "I want to assure brother Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi that all the Liberians are awaiting the day when he pay a visit to this country at any time he wishes".

During his visit to Liberia, the secretary of the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison held talks with the Liberian minister of foreign affairs on the means to enhance the potentials of cooperation in a number of fields. Agreement was reached on backing and developing cooperation between both countries within the framework of the Organization of African Unity (O.A.U.) and the Non-Alignment Movement.

The Liberian foreign minister welcomed the secretary saying: "I am looking forward to establishing strong relations between Libya and Liberia as both being members of O.A.U.

In a statement to journalist at the airport where he was welcoming the secretary, he said that his country's government is obliged to strengthen the two countries' bilateral relations.

On his part, the foreign liaison secretary stated to journalists at the airport that the aim of his visit, which came upon an invitation from his liberation counterpart, was to endeavour to find best means to consolidate the relations between both peoples and countries.

During the talks held between delegations from both sides, the Liberation foreign minister asserted President Samuel Doe's keeness to promote good relations with Jamahiriyah especially after the decision taken by the leader of the great Al-Fatih Revolution regarding diplomatic relations with Liberia which was welcomed by the Liberian president.

He added that relations between both countries were halted but not severed... "The severing of relations is a serious and comprehensive affair which we did not arive at".

The foreign liaison secretary replied by saying: "We confidently believe in the usefulness of cooperation amongst brothers Africans and we act acccording to such a belief."

He said: "Cooperation would help to achieve our aims. We look forward to the future and this visit will achieve what we hope for—the arrival at excellent relations".

In the Republic of Mali, President "Moussa Traore" praised, during his reception of the secretary of the People's Committee for Foreign Liaison Bureau, Great Jamahiriyah's role and its courage in facing the challenges. He pointed out to the resumption of the Libyan-Chadian relations and their impact on peace in Africa.

In the Republic of Gabon, President Omar Bongo received the secretary of the People's Committee for Foreign Liaison who handed him a letter from the leader.

All three African president expressed full appreciation for the role of the leader and his efforts to support African causes whc they received the foreign liaison secretary.

Great Jamahiriyah and Liberia signed a memo of understanding through which agreement was reached on backing, developing and continuing their cooperation within the framework of the O.A.U. and the Non-Alignment Movement.

In the field of developing economic cooperation between the two countries, they agreed to prepare studies and taking steps that will achieve the following project through the Libyan-Liberian receiving company: paper, sugar manufacturing, production and preparing of rubber and timber.

As both sides notice the current affairs of the Libyan-Liberian receiving company, they realise the need for taking the necessary step to ensure the achievement of

the aims of such projects. Both sides stressed the importance of encouraging and developing trade exchange between them and also to ease the cultural exchange in various fields.

Soviet Ambassador Holds News Conference

LD3110220988 Tripoli Television Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 31 Oct 88

[Text] The ambassador of the Soviet Union to the Great Jamahiriyah has valued the initiative of the brother leader of the revolution symbolized by his gift to Africa on occasion of the 25th anniversary of the OAU regarding the solving of the Chadian problem.

At a news conference held at noon today in Tripoli, which was attended by many correspondents of Arab and international news agencies and dailies, he said: We support all the steps taken in this connection and within the framework of the OAU, free from foreign interference.

Regarding Libyan Arab-Soviet relations, the Soviet ambassador pointed out that the friendly Soviet people follow with great interest the development in the Great Jamahiriyah and the gigantic cultural achievements which have been realized thanks to the Great September Revolution in various spheres. He also praised the deep ties linking the Libyan Arab and the Soviet people, ties based on cooperation and mutual respect.

The Soviet ambassador to the Great Jamahiriyah reaffirmed his country's desire to develop and consolidate the bonds of friendship and cooperation between the two friendly peoples, noting the interest of the Soviet Government and the friendly Soviet people in the changes taking place in the Great Jamahiriyah ever since the Great September Revolution.

With regard to the unity of the countries of the Arab Maghreb, the Soviet ambassador to the Great Jamahiriyah said: We in the Soviet Union welcome the efforts being made by the countries of the Arab Maghreb to integrate themselves to attain comprehensive unity.

Joint Cooperation with DPRK Discussed

LD3010175788 Tripoli JANA in English 1411 GMT 30 Oct 88

[Text] Tripoli, Al-Tumur [October] 30, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—The secretary of the General People's Committee for Communications and Maritime Transport yesterday met the minister for external economic affairs in Democratic Korea Chong Song-nam.

The two sides studied during this meeting the bases required for the consolidation of joint cooperation between the friendly peoples of Great Jamahiriyah and the Democratic Republic of Korea.

Also the meeting discussed and monitored the executed items agreed during the meetings of the 5th session of the Libyan Arab-Korean mixed commission for joint cooperation which held its meetings on 3rd Nasir [July] in Yung Pang [placename as received].

OPEC's Subroto Arrives in Tripoli

LD3110034488 Tripoli Television Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 30 Oct 88

[Text] OPEC Secretary General Dr Subroto this evening arrived in Tripoli on a visit to the Great Jamahiriyah. In a statement to a JANA correspondent he said that his visit is within the framework of preparing for the next OPEC conference in November and to acquaint officials in the Great Jamahiriyah with the decisions which were taken at the last meeting.

Country Appointed Maghreb Economic Union Head

LD3111143288 Rabat MAP in English 1245 GMT 31 Oct 88

[Text] Casablanca, Oct 31, (MAP)—Libya Saturday was appointed to the chairmanship of the Union of Maghreban Economic Chambers for a two year period. Tunisia, Algeria, Mauritania, Morocco and vice chairmen of the union, which gathers the unions of national chambers and federations of the professional chambers of the five Maghreban countries.

The union, to be based in Casablanca, will have several bodies including a board, sectorial commissions (finance, investment, transport, trade and industry), a general secretariat and a congress. The board and the congress will respectively have 20 and 40 members. The total number of the members of all the commissions will be 20.

The Constituent Assembly of the Union of Maghreban Economic Chambers was held Saturday in Casablanca under the chairmanship of Moroccan Minister of Commerce and Industry Abdallah Azmani.

At the end of the assembly chairman of the union Seddik Bousnina said the inception of the union will contribute to the formation of a common market in the Maghreb and help upgrade economic cooperation, the circulation of national products, the holding of seminars, the launching of joint projects and joint ventures.

1956 'Massacre' of Palestinians Commemorated

LD3010155388 Tripoli JANA in English 1405 GMT 30 Oct 88

[Text] Tripoli, Al-Tumur [October] 30, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—The Libyan Arab People commemorated yesterday the sad anniversary of the massacre carried out by the Zionist terrorists against the Palestinian Arab people 32 years ago.

On 29th October 1956, the residents of Kafr Qasim were subjected to a horrible carnage which claimed hundreds of Palestinian innocents which form a part of the circle of terrorist acts committed, and still [being committed], by the Zionists against the Palestinians.

Our commemoration of this sad anniversary is not accompanied by despair, for the popular revolution taking place in occupied Palestine is a popular revolution led by the generation of anger through their people's committes... the children throwing stones are drawing a happy painting of revenge against the perpetrators of the massacre of Kafr Qasim... victory is near over the Zionist military machine for the popular revolution cannot be defeated because it is able to provide waves after waves of bodies in confronting the Zionist enemy without any hesitation or weariness or despair as support is provided by the strong revolutionary and unionist flow coming from the soil of Great Jamahiriyah towards the unity of the Arab nation and victory for the Arab nation through the popular revolution. [ellipses, sentence as received]

The generation of anger in occupied Palestine commemorated the event in their own way and the Zionists will never succeed this time in penetrating their ranks for the generation of anger are leading a popular revolution which cannot be defeated.

Morocco

King Hassan Receives Egyptian Defense Minister

LD2910224588 Rabat MAP in English 1216 GMT 29 Oct 88

[Text] Fes, Oct 29 (MAP)—King Hassan II received here Friday afternoon visiting Egyptian Deputy Premier and Defense Minister Marshal Abu Ghazalah.

King Hassan II decorated on the occasion the Egyptian official with the Great Cordon of the Military Wissam Order in recognition, the sovereign said while addressing Marshal Abu Ghazalah, "of your experience, your knowledge as well as your perspicacity and perseverance".

After the decoration ceremony, King Hassan II held talks with Marshal Abu Ghazalah in the presence of Crown Prince Sidi Mohammed.

Marshal Abu Ghazalah had arrived in Morocco Wednesday on a state visit at the invitation of King Hassan II.

Abu Ghazalah Gives Pre-Departure News Conference

LD3010150788 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 30 Oct 88

[Excerpt] Field Marshal 'Abd al-Halim Abu Ghazalah, Egyptian deputy prime minister and minister of defense and war production, ended today his official visit to our country.

Before leaving Sale Airport, he held a news conference in which he expressed satisfaction at the results of his visit to Morocco, confirming he will remain a soldier working for the consolidation of the strong relations between King Hassan II, may God make him victorious, and Egyptian President Muhammad Husni Mubarak, and between the Moroccan and Egyptian peoples. [passage omitted]

On the possibility of cooperation between Morocco and Egypt in the field of military production and joint maneuvers, Filed Marshal Abu Ghazalah said:

[Begin recording] I see nothing to prevent cooperation in military production, training, etc. There is nothing to prevent this. What I sensed from the brothers here is that there is complete openness, so there is nothing to prevent this. I came in this spirit.

God willing, there will be other meetings and I believe we are talking about matters which require many details which we will leave until we get to them. [end recording]

Regarding the effect of the Palestinian uprising, strategically speaking, on the Arab-Zionist conflict, Abu Ghazalah said he considered the uprising the birth of a new force in the region. It also has a great effect on both the Israeli level and the international level.

Concerning the scope for peace, Field Marshal Abu Ghazalah said: All probabilities remain there and conditions remain dependent on the extent of the Iranian [as heard] intentions.

He expressed hope peace would prevail in the Gulf, especially after the human and material losses caused by the years of the destructive war. [passage omitted]

Angola's Dos Santos Arrives in Fes 1 Nov

LD0211115688 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 1 Nov 88

[Excerpt] Jose Eduardo dos Santos, president of the People's Republic of Angola and chairman of the Popular Liberation Movement of Angola—Party of Labor, this evening arrived in Fes.

He is leading an important delegation, including External Relations Minister Afonso van Dunem and Transport Minister Carlos Fernandes. His majesty's guests were welcomed at Fes-Sais Airport by Prime Minister Azzedine Laraki. [passage omitted]

Sudan

Al-Mahdi on Deteriorating Situation in South

EA0111200488 Omdurman National Unity Radio in Arabic 1300 GMT 1 Nov 88

[Text] The National Defense Council held a meeting yesterday, under the chairmanship of Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi. The council discussed the security situation in the south and the escalation of military operations by the rebel movement in Al-Nasir and Eastern Equatoria.

Prime Minister al-Sadiq al-Mahdi said in the press conference he held at the General Secretariat of the Council of Ministers at noon yesterday, that security all over the north is better than before. As for security in the south, particularly in eastern Equatoria and Al-Nasir, it has deteriorated as a result of activities and the escalation of fighting by the rebel movement.

He said the National Defense Council decided at its previous meeting to gather together national energies to act and reverse all the developments that have occurred in Eastern Equatoria and Al-Nasir and took the necessary measures to contain the situation.

Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi said at the press conference: Adherence to peace is a strategic stand and we are dealing with it with the greatest of all possible tolerance. However, the initiatives that have been made have not been met with any serious response for the other party.

Al-Sadiq said that the Garang movement is playing with human lives and the peace issue and is treating this issue with contempt. He said: We believe that Sudan is required to take a stern stand against contacts and acts aimed at maneuvers [as heard] that are interpreted as weakness by the other party, while everybody knows that our sole objective is to stop the bloodshed in the south of the homeland.

Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi dealt in his speech with a number of current national issues such as those of refuge and migration. He said: A committee was established to develop a report on refugees, the places where they are, the principles to control their whereabouts, and the documents determining what they are allowed to do in order to work and limit their political activities.

On the other hand, Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi warned Kenya against interfering in the affairs of Sudan and threatened to reciprocate in the event Kenya continues to support the rebel movement.

DUP's Al-Mirghani To Meet Garang 11 Nov

NC0211141088 Paris AFP in English 1356 GMT 2 Nov 88

[Text] Khartoum, Nov 2 (AFP)—The leader of one of Sudan's Government coalition parties, Muhammad Osman al-Mirghani of the Democratic Unionists, is to meet rebel leader John Garang on November 11, the DUP said here Wednesday.

The venue is the Ethiopian capital Addis Ababa, where the DUP and Colonel Garang's Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM) have already had two rounds of peace talks.

They have agreed in general terms on a ceasefire in the civil war pitting the SPLM's armed wing against government troops in south Sudan, an end to the state of emergency before the end of this year, and the staging of a constitutional conference to thrash out major national issues.

Mr. al-Mirghani and Col. Garang are supposed to meet and then sign the agreement at this month's meeting, party sources said. The agreement would then be submitted to Sudan's other political parties for discussion.

The SPLM says it is fighting for a secular Sudan which would free the largely Christian and animist south from religious as well as political dominance by the predominantly Moslem north.

Mr. al-Mirghani, during his three to five days in Addis, is also to discuss bilateral relations with Ethiopian leader Mengistu Haile Mariam, the sources said. The government here accuses Ethiopia of supporting the rebels.

50 'Outlaws' Killed in 2 Operations

EA2910023688 Omdurman National Unity Radio in Arabic 1300 GMT 28 Oct 88

[Text] An Armed Forces official spokesman has told AL-USBU' [Army newspaper] that our forces succeeded in defeating the remnants of the outlaws in the southern regions and in Al-Kurmuk area.

The outlaws had 50 men killed and 90 wounded. Their camp in Ariath area was burned down. Large quantities of ammunition, military materiel, Kalashnikov rifles, and Gronov machineguns were captured.

Following information received about an outlaw camp in Ariath area, 12 km east of Aweil, a force moved from Aweil and clashed with the outlaw force. They killed 30 outlaws and wounded 90. Our forces captured large quantities of ammunition and military material and succeeded in completely burning down the camp. Two were martyred and three were injured from our forces.

In Al-Kurmuk area, our forces clashed with an outlaw force which was attempting to approach Chali area. Our forces killed 20 and captured nine Kalashnikov rifles and one Gronov machinegun without any losses to our forces.

Air Traffic Control Strike Closes Airport

NC0211071588 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0642 GMT 2 Nov 88

[Text] Cairo, 2 Nov (MENA)—Egypt Air Flight 753 bound for Khartoum returned to Cairo airport early this morning because of the closure of Khartoum airport.

On approaching the Sudanese borders, the pilot was informed that the Sudanese capital's airport had been closed due to a strike by air traffic controllers.

Demonstrators in Khartoum Protest Food Shortages
NC0211140988 Paris AFP in English 1353 GMT 2 Nov 88

[Text] Cairo, Nov 2 (AFP)—Demonstrations to protest against food shortages in Sudan have spread to the capital Khartoum, travellers arriving here Wednesday reported.

The protests, mounted mostly by college students, started about five days ago in Omdurman, Khartoum's twin city on the Nile. Police have used tear-gas to break up the demonstrations, the sources said.

The Egyptian news agency MENA meanwhile said an Egyptian plane was turned back to Cairo when it tried to land at Khartoum, because of a strike by air traffic controllers.

But a Sudan Airways official here said the airport was operating normally except for a strike by weather forecasters. Before each plane departure from Khartoum, the airport officials there contacted Cairo airport for the latest weather news, the official said.

More on Food Protests
NC0211160388 Paris AFP in English 1546 GMT 2 Nov 88

[Text] Khartoum, Nov 2 (AFP)—Demonstrations in protest against food shortages in Khartoum continued amid violence Wednesday in the Sudanese capital as riot police using teargas sought to disperse the crowds, witnesses said.

Many demonstrators were arrested and taken away in police vehicles, they added, but several arrested earlier were released.

The demonstrations, launched here Saturday by school students are over shortages of such commodities, as bread and sugar.

Police attempting to block roads came under hails of stones thrown by school students, and police attempts to disperse crowds were met with the immediate formation of new crowds elsewhere, the witnesses said.

The school students burned tires at crossroads to prevent police pursuing them.

A large march from the university to the city hall was confronted by police who dispersed it with teargas grenades.

The students had earlier refused a proposal by the chief of the riot police to form a committee to meet the mayor of Khartoum, insisting they wanted to march onto the municipal headquarters.

A car parked near the United States embassy was burned, a senior police official said, and according to witnesses stones were thrown at American diplomatic buildings.

But despite the violence Tuesday and Wednesday, Khartoum Police Chief 'Abd al-Rahman 'Isa said the situation was under control.

General 'Isa said he hoped for a return to normal as soon as there was bread and sugar in the markets again. The authorities have attributed the shortages to transport problems.

Similar demonstrations have taken place in Khartoum's twin city of Omdurman and at Hasaheisa, 145 km (100 miles) to the southeast, witnesses also said.

French Minister Makes Famine Relief Proposal
LD0111170588 Paris International Service in French 1245 GMT 1 Nov 88

[Text] The French secretary of state for humanitarian action has launched an idea from Sudan. French aid to the famine victims could be sent through the Central African Republic.

Bernard Kouchner visited the province of Southern Kordofan yesterday. Here is what the minister told TFI television channel:

[Begin recording] We really need an international effort and very great pressure to stop these people, the Dinka and the other peoples of the south, from dying an masse. And we have tried to get things moving insofar as we can and to propose on behalf of the French Government particular aid, coming from the Central African Republic.

With the agreement of its president, naturally, we could perhaps make an effort to reach these people who are starving and these children who fall by the wayside as they can no longer walk and no one has the strength to bury them. [end recording]

Intra-Gulf Affairs

GCC Ends 1st Round of 10th Emergency Session

LD0111183188 Kuwait KUNA in English 1731 GMT 1 Nov 88

[Text] Riyadh, Nov 1 (KUNA)—GCC foreign ministers ended here Tuesday afternoon the first round of a closed-door meeting within their 10th extraordinary session that is scheduled to resume late tonight.

The meeting, which took place in the GCC Secretariat building here, was chaired by Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal.

SAUDI PRESS AGENCY quoted Prince Sa'ud as stating that economic issues and committees' reports, were discussed. The next session will discuss political and security issues and the economic agreement signed with EEC that will be presented to the 9th GCC sumit, the prince added.

On the other hand, a number of participant ministers, stressed to SPA the importance of such a gathering, pointing out that it precedes the upcoming summit conference in Bahrain.

They also indicated that the ministerial council is to discuss important issues pertaining to political and economic matters in addition to reviewing the various ministerial committees' reports and recommendations.

Muhammad ibn Mubarak Al Khalifah, Bahraini foreign minister, said that GCC accomplishments, current political developments including the situation in Lebanon, the Palestinian cause and peace talks between Iraq and Iran, are high on the agenda.

Ends 2d 'Work Meeting'

LD0111205288 Kuwait KUNA in English 1948 GMT 1 Nov 88

[Text] Riyadh, Nov 1 (KUNA)—The GCC Ministerial Council tonight concluded its second work meeting of its 10th extraordinary session, under the chairmanship of Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal.

Prince al-Faysal said that the final session will take place tomorrow, Wednesday.

GCC 'Peninsula Falcon 2-88' Maneuvers Detailed

LD0211043788 Kuwait KUNA in English 1512 GMT 1 Nov 88

[Text] Kuwait, Nov 1 (KUNA)—The GCC'S 'Peninsula Falcon 2-88' aerial maneuvers begin here Nov 5 and continues through Nov 15.

Head of the preparatory committee for the maneuvers Wing Commander Sabir al-Suwaydan noted that these maneuvers are the largest ever in Kuwait and the Arabian Gulf, due to the big number of fighters and choppers taking part.

In a press conference held here Tuesday, Al-Suwaydan said that the maneuvers will group 44 different aircraft supplied with live ammunition, along with an aerial backup from (?the forces) of the Peninsula Shield.

Regarding the warplanes due to participate in the military exercise, the ranking officer indicated that that Qatar will take part with Mirage F-1's, Bahrain with F-5's, the UAE with Hawks, Saudi Arabia with F-15, and Tornados, Oman with Jaguar and Kuwait with Skyhawks, Mirage F-15, Gazelle and Puma and Super Puma choppers.

Commander al-Suwaydan, who is also head of operations at the Kuwaiti Air Force, said that the maneuvers will branch into stages, namely air to air, air to surface and the final exercise will group land forces along with fighters.

He noted that the Peninsula Falcon 1, held in Oman, was not of the same calibre of the upcoming maneuvers.

Al-Suwaydan said that the Peninsula Falcon 2 drills aim at exchanging expertise among GCC pilots, adding that these exercises will be the biggest backup for the Peninsula shield land forces.

The Kuwaiti officer said that similar maneuvers in the future will also group naval forces alongside the aerial and land forces.

Al-Suwaydan noted that GCC air transport planes have begun arriving here today, carrying various military equipment and will continue arriving through Thursday.

PDRY

Al-'Attas Interviewed on Oman Visit, Yemeni Unity

JN0111093488 Dubayy AL-BAYAN in Arabic 30 Oct 88 p 15

[Interview with Haydar Abu Bakr al-'Attas, chairman of the Supreme People's Council Presidium, by Nabil Fahmi and Ahmad Nafadi in Muscat—date not given]

[Text] Question 1: How do you view the importance of your first visit to Oman? What do you hope to achieve? What accords will be signed?

Answer 1: Our visit to fraternal Oman gains importance from its position in the race of time of the march of bilateral relations between the two fraternal countries. It is the first visit on such a level since the establishment of relations between the two countries.

It also gains importance from the indications it gives about the improvement of these relations, as this visit crowns the efforts of the leaderships of the two countries to build a new phase of broader horizons in all fields of cooperation.

We hope that this visit—which we are sure will be a success—will be a step forward on the course of bilateral relations through the signing of accords for cooperation in economic, technical, scientific, and other fields.

Question 2: What are the means to improve relations between Aden and Muscat in the future? What fields are available for this cooperation?

Answer 2: Relations of cooperation between the PDRY and the Sultanate of Oman are improving on the bases of the declaration of principles signed between the two countries, mutual respect, and the search for anything that achieves mutual interests and also on the basis of preserving the region's security and stability, exchanging expertise in the numerous development fields, participating in the achievement of Arab solidarity, and serving the Arab nation's supreme interests by participating in pan-Arab issues—the forefront of which is the Palestinian Arab people's cause. All of these constitute a broad and diverse area for relations of bilateral cooperation.

Question 3: What happened to the demarcation of borders between the two countries? Have you reached a solution to this problem with the Omani side? Will it be resolved soon, particularly as it is still unresolved?

Answer 3: Cooperation between the two countries has covered a good, fruitful distance in all fields. Currently, is has reached a stage to enable them to move to a broader, more superior stage. Naturally, this will reflect on the subject of border demarcation—a subject that treads the same path. There is no unresolved problem between the two sides, and sincere efforts are continuing to make things reach their natural conclusion.

This subject must also be placed in its natural place among all the issues in bilateral relations between our two fraternal countries. Anyway, this is one of the issues we will discuss with His Majesty Sultan Qabus during our current visit.

We assert that this issue is being treated by both sides with a spirit of understanding, sincerity, common concern, and awareness of the nature of these complicated issues, which call for patience and precision on the one hand and a comprehensive and general outlook on the other.

This is one of the inheritances of colonial presence in Third World countries. It is like buried mines, which need great effort to be dismantled.

Question 4: What is Your Excellency's assessment of the relations between your country and the UAE and the extent of improvement in these relations? How did the UAE's role contribute to clearing the atmosphere between Aden and Muscat and to improving relations between them during the previous period?

Answer 4: Relations between the PDRY and the UAE are established, developed, and continuously improving. They are based on the achievements of bilateral cooperation during the previous period and on the special care given by His Highness Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan.

Regarding relations between Aden and Muscat, the fraternal UAE and Kuwait have played a significant role in preparing the suitable atmosphere to establish and improve relations through the good relations which were, and still are, connecting all these countries.

This clearly indicates the extent of the positive results achieved by correct, natural relations among the states in the region in the service of each other and their common interest.

Question 5: What is your view of the steps taken thus far for unity with North Yemen? What are the main features of the unified constitution and when will it be enforced?

Does Your Excellency see this step as an addition to the current trend of setting up several Arab groupings, each of which comprises a number of similar states, or it is a step meant to give a strong push to collective Arab action?

Answer 5: The unionist steps being taken between the two parts of one Yemen—and I do not say with North Yemen, as you have said—are historic steps which are different from those of the previous stage.

These new steps are tangibly felt by Yemeni people in both parts. The agreement on the freedom of travel with the identity card is felt by every citizen in all Yemen; nobody denies its importance.

The same applies to the joint investment agreement for the common area between the Shabwah and Ma'rib Governorates. This is a promising area in the field of oil and is considered a basis for setting up other projects in the various spheres so that the people's interests will be linked together and attained on solid grounds and so that revenues will go to the people in both parts.

There is also the electric project linking the two parts. We hope to see more such projects. Currently there is intensive and continuous activity to unify the popular, artistic, and professional organizations through which the popular energies are pooled to participate in building and protecting the edifice of unity and defending its accomplishments.

As for the unified constitution, it was drafted by the constitutional committee in the early 1980s, but was frozen. Recently it was sent to the secretariat of the Higher Yemeni Council in order to fix the date to present it to the Higher Yemeni Council and the People's and Consultative Councils in both parts of the homeland before releasing it for a popular referendum.

The draft constitution is published in the magazine "AL-HIKMAH," mouthpiece of Yemeni writers and men of letters. There you can acquaint yourself not only with its main features but the whole constitution. It will be enforced once it is endorsed by the people in the two parts.

Within the framework of the unionist efforts of the two political leaderships in the two parts of the homeland, we clearly place before us the main strategic goal of achieving full unity between the two regimes as a culmination of the unity of the Yemeni people and territory.

This goal is certainly different from the groupings and joint action you mention in your question. In our assessment and the assessment of all Arab brothers, Yemeni unity is a strong push and a good beginning for all Arab efforts to build comprehensive Arab unity.

Question 6: It is said that the North and South Yemeni people will be a true example of the sound unionist trend in our Arab world. Does Your Excellency believe there are sufficient guarantees for the continuation of these steps, and do you see difficulties through which internal and external forces will try to hamper this trend?

Answer 6: The Yemeni people and territory constitute a homogenous and united historical, geographic, economic, and cultural entity. This unity was most splendidly manifested in the 26 September and 14 October revolutions and the defense of them.

The circumstances imposed on the Yemeni people and territory created two political regimes. We believe that this exceptional situation should end in favor of the natural situation of having one regime in conformity with the unity of the Yemeni entity and the Yemeni people's will, hopes, and aspirations.

In view of the peculiarity of this situation, the unionist action between the two parts is expected to succeed more than any other Arab unionist plan. Hence, and out of our realization of this situation, we seek and hope to achieve this unity, which will become an inspiration for unionist Arab action.

As for the guarantees you ask about, I do not know what guarantees you mean. However, I see the experience of the past stages of unionist action between the two parts of Yemen, the strong popular faith in unity, our Yemeni people's adherence to the principles of both the September and October revolutions, the two political leaderships' absolute commitment to peaceful and democratic dialogue and rejection of any form of tension regardless of hardships and justifications, in addition to other factors, constitute guarantees for the continuation of unity steps.

Hardships exist, but they are natural. These hardships are currently headed by hastiness and a rush to declare immediate unity to avoid the hard work required to fullfil the prerequisites of unity, as well as hesitation and inaction to preserve interests based on partition and separation.

These two orientations constitute a broad cover under which the internal and external enemies of the unity of the Yemeni people work.

Question 7: How do you view the GCC experience, and how are your country's relations with its six member states? How do you evaluate the current situation after the Iraq-Iran cease-fire? How can the Arabs remove the traces of this destructive war?

Answer 7: The GCC experience was a response to the need of the GCC member states for cooperation to achieve the objectives of these countries and provide protection, security, and stability in the Arab Gulf area.

According to data provided by the GCC appratuses and Gulf officials, this experience has benefited the interests of the six member states. From this angle, we evaluate this experience positively and see it as a form of fruitful cooperation among a group of Arab countries seeking to unify their resources and powers to serve development objectives and maintain the joint interests of these states, whose interests are a part of the joint interests of our region and the Arab region in general.

We view the current situation after ending the war between Iraq and Iran with satisfaction and optimism regardless of the current hardships and obstacles, which are much easier than that destructive war, which used to make the area a prey for dangers and worst possibilities.

It is natural that the Arabs extend a great deal in the field of entrenching peace, removing the traces of the war, and rebuilding a solid peace within an atmosphere of security, stability, as well as normal and useful interaction among the area peoples and states.

These efforts are necessitated by the reality of geographic neighborhood and historical and cultural interaction between the Iranian people and the Arab nation.

Question 8: The PLO now stands at the threshold of a new stage after Yasir 'Arafat's announcement that a Palestinian state will be declared after the convocation of the next PNC session in Algeria.

What is your opinion of this Palestinian step? Do you believe it will contribute toward finding a comprehensive solution to the issue?

Answer 8: The new stage experienced by the PLO and the Palestinian people is among the results of the Palestinian people's great popular uprising, which placed the Zionist entity and its allies in the U.S. Administration in an impasse.

The uprising also placed the Palestine question at the top of international interest. Eleven months have passed since the outbreak of the valiant uprising. The situation that used to prevail, or that seemed prevailing or unchanging, has changed. This change has not been in the interest of Israel.

The call for a PNC session to study the best forms of Palestinian action to deal with the new developments exploited this situation. These forms of action include the declaration of a Palestinian state.

Definitely, the option to be decided by the PNC and to reflect and embody the unity of the will of the Palestinian people and the PLO, their sole, legitimate representative, will contribute toward reaching a just, peaceful solution to the Palestine question.

Question 9: The idea of establishing a Jordanian-Palestinian confederation is now being discussed. How do you view this idea and its support for the Palestinian existence, and what is your assessment of the recent Jordanian-Egyptian-Palestinian move?

Answer 9: The idea of a Jordanian-Palestinian confederation is one of the possible forms of relations between the Jordanian and Palestinian states. This idea—and other ideas that are aimed at creating the most advanced coordination and cooperation between the two states—is a natural expression of the extent of interlacing and interlocking between Palestine and Jordan.

Therefore, these ideas are sound and correct. However, confederation is a form of union between two states, and therefore, it will not be achieved except after the establishment of the independent Palestinian state. Until then, it will remain an idea.

Regarding the Jordanian-Egyptian-Palestinian move, we have not yet completed enough information to assess it.

Question 10: Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan has made a call for an emergency summit to save Lebanon. What is your opinion on this? Do you believe in the possibility of a solution to this crisis?

What is your assessment of the current situation in Lebanon and its reflection on the Arab situation in general?

Answer 10: I will begin with your last question. In fact, the current situation in Lebanon raises our concerns and saddens us. The situation is deteriorating very quickly. This deterioration will certainly be at the expense of our Lebanese brothers and the Arab nation, which will lose a country that has always played distinguished roles in the joint Arab march.

Moreover, the Zionist entity will win once again on all levels. It will have part of Lebanon's territory by virtue of its existence and current influence in Lebanon. In the worst case, the consequences will be very bad on the entire Arab situation by all standards.

Based on this view, we appreciate and support Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan's call. We will spare no effort to save Lebanon from the dangers of total collapse.

Despite this tragic situation, we still believe in the possibility of a solution to save Lebanon from its ordeal if the Lebanese people close ranks and unify their will along with effective support by Arab states.

Question 11: Do you agree with some sides that signs of relaxation are now looming on the Arab horizon? What is your assessment of the current Arab situation?

What about the PDRY's support for Arab solidarity, and do you currently have any specific mediations in this regard?

Answer 11: The convocation of the Arab summit in Amman in 1987, the eruption of the valiant popular uprising in the occupied territories only a few days after the summit, the positive results of this uprising on the popular and official levels, the convocation of the emergency Arab summit in Algiers and its positive results, the end of the Iraq-Iran war, and the restoration of peace to the Gulf region following long years of fierce war, in addition to the Arab Maghreb states' efforts to unify their resources and capabilities within the framework of the greater Arab Maghreb, and other issues, were among the signs that indicate a positive relaxation in the Arab situation.

However, we must not forget that these signs were only at their early stages. This is why the imperialists and Zionists, the Arab nation's enemies, which thrive under circumstances of Arab fragmentation and tension and hostility among Arab states, began to hatch plots to strike at these signs at their beginnings through casting doubts.This, we believe, threatens the modest achievements in the Arab situation.

Proceeding from our view, our country is exerting all possible efforts to clear the atmosphere for Arab solidarity; to encourage and protect the positive signs; to spread the spirit of confidence, optimism, and cooperation among all Arabs; and to foil plots against any possibility to achieve effective Arab solidarity.

In light of this, our country participates in the continuous consultations and coordination of efforts among all the brother Arab leaders to overcome difficulties and problems that only benefit our enemy.

Question 12: What is the role of your country, which has good ties with Ethiopia, in the mediation to find a solution to the problem in southern Sudan?

Answer 12: Our country has excellent relations with both fraternal Sudan and friendly Ethiopia. Through these relations, we will always present and reaffirm our comprehensive concept of the problems in the Horn of Afria and the Red Sea littoral states.

These call for more awareness by all states in the region and more wisdom in treating the problems in the region through peaceful dialogue, collective security, and common interests.

This will lead to a solution to the bilateral problems on the basis of taking into account the legitimate rights of each party and its right to security and stability.

Any violation of this spirit will only open the door to the imperialist quarters' aims to push the region and the Red Sea into atmospheres of tension and military conflicts that will bring disaster to all states in the region and profit arms dealers and factories, which lost their market in the Gulf war.

Regarding the mediation, neither of the two sides has asked us to carry it out. We believe in the ability of the two neighboring countries to resolve problems between them through direct dialogue, which was not discontinued.

Question 13: Are there contacts between Aden and Washington? Is there any consideration of the resumption of diplomatic relations between the two countries? How do you view the recent detente in Soviet and Eastern European contacts with Israel?

Answer 13: There are no direct contacts between Aden and Washington. As for the resumption of relations, let me say that severance of diplomatic relations between any two states is an abnormal situation. The natural situation is the presence of such relations.

Our foreign policy and relations with countries in the world affirm that we sincerely endeavor to build natural, constructive relations with other countries in the world irrespective of social systems.

However, these relations are governed by a number of principles, including mutual respect, noninterference in domestic affairs, and reciprocity.

Our relations with the United States were severed due to acts that, in our assessment, violated the principles of our policy and harmed our options that originate from our people's will.

Amidst the current circumstances and the new developments in international relations, we assiduously think about means to reactivate our foreign policy and give it more liveliness based on the firm principles of our foreign policy—whose soundness was proved by events—in a manner that will strengthen and entrench our system, the Arab nation's causes, and the principles of security, peace, cooperation, and friendship among peoples of the world.

Regarding the detente to which you refer between the Soviet Union and socialist powers and Israel, this term may suggest meanings which I do not personally believe are correct.

I think they may be more appropriately described by using the expression: Movement in the contacts among these states and Israel. We believe that this is a natural thing that responds to the role these countries play in the attempts to remove the causes that led to the severance of diplomatic relations between them and Israel, represented in the occupation of new Arab territories in the 1967 war and the Zionist entity's pursuance of an aggressive militaristic policy in the region.

I believe that this is compatible with the Arab objectives of regaining the territories occupied in 1967 and with the firm stand of the Soviet Union and the socialist bloc in supporting the Palestinian cause, the active solidarity with the Palestinian people's right of self-determination and the establishment of an independent state, and the offering of political, moral, humanitarian, and other forms of support for the Palestinian people and their uprising, under the leadership of the PLO. This is how I view the matter.

It remains to affirm that political moves of any country proceed from its comprehensive view of the situation and from principles of its policy and right of sovereignty.

Question 14: What about your relations with Egypt? What does Egypt's return to the Arab fold mean to you? What is your stand on Egypt's return to the Arab League?

Answer 14: Our relations with Egypt are normal and proceed on the basis of the joint statement issued by the two countries.

Since the boycott measures adopted against Egypt because of the Camp David accords, all events in the Arab arena and Arab Egypt itself have proved that separating Egypt from the Arabs and the Arabs from Egypt has inflicted the heaviest damage on all Arabs.

It has also been proved that the Arab nation's imperialist and Zionist enemies have benefited most from that situation. It has become evident that Egypt and the Arabs are indispensable to each other.

Therefore, Egypt's return to the Arab arena will fill the vacuum resulting from Egypt's absence from the Arab ranks. This absence has constituted a serious gap used by the Arab nation's enemies to activate and peddle their plots of fragmenting the Arab world and hitting each country separately.

Therefore, Egypt's return to the Arab ranks constitutes a gain and a significant element of power. We completely distinguish between this return and the generalization of Camp David in the Arab arena, which is something we cannot tolerate. As for Egypt's return to the Arab League, we are committed to the Arab consensus.

Question 15: Contacts and meetings are occasionally held among Red Sea littoral states seeking to make the Red Sea a lake of peace. What are the results of these efforts thus far? What is Your Excellency's opinion of the means to achieve this objective?

Answer 15: These contacts and meetings are natural, necessary, and stem from eagerness to transfer the Red Sea into a lake of peace, as you have indicated. Our country exerts efforts along with other Red Sea littoral states to achieve this.

The results so far are good. There is joint understanding on this issue affecting the interests of all concerned. This objective can be met through continued dialogue, consultations, and coordination among the Red Sea states to obstruct any evil attempts to disturb peace in this vital and important sea, which must remain a secure passage for all and under the direct and sole responsibility of the littoral states alone.

Paper Interviews 'Aziz on Kurds, Other Issues

JN0111164088 Kuwait AL-QABAS in Arabic
31 Oct 88 pp 1, 23

[By 'Adil Ilyas]

[Text] Baghdad—Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz has said: We are currently planning to divert the Shatt al-'Arab waterway to allow the mouth of the Shatt al-'Arab to be located south of Basra; namely, in Khawr al-Zubayr.

We are also studying the issue of moving entire residential quarters from the city of Basra to territory inside Iraq, to get them out of range of the Iranian artillery.

In an interview with AL-QABAS and the FRG newspaper DER SPIEGEL, Minister 'Aziz said: The diversion of the Shatt al-'Arab waterway is neither difficult nor impossible, as we have previous experiences in this regard. We previously linked the Tigris to the Euphrates in various locations. We will also move all heavy industry installations to areas deep inside Iraqi territory.

The Iraqi minister reacted to Western accusations that Iraq is launching a genocidal war against the Kurds and said: Iraq has done nothing other than end the rebellion in northern Iraq. Now, Iraq has finished off this rebellion once and for all. Mustafa Barzani previously forged alliances with Israel, the shah of Iran, and the United States against Iraq. Right now, his son Mas'ud Barzani revived this alliance, as he has allied himself with Khomeyni. The minister affirmed that Mas'ud Barzani has never posed a danger to Iraq and added that his supporters are a negligible minority. Mas'ud Barzani forged an alliance with the enemy against his homeland.

Therefore, the Iraqi Government has the right to pursue him and eliminate his rebellion in the same way it pursues any traitor or rebel who works against his homeland, Iraq. 'Aziz said that the number of the Kurdish refugees; namely those who fled Iraq for Turkey, is very small. He explained the flight of civilians by saying that each rebel forced his relatives, tribe, and family to flee with him to Turkey. There in Turkey, they staged theatricals regarding the flight of civilians to delude the world public into believing that civilians are fleeing Iraq for Turkey in large numbers and that the issue is one of civilians.

'Aziz affirmed that security motives were behind the emigration and evacuation of Kurds from border areas to territories inside Iraq. He added: First, these areas are very close to the borders with Iran. The war that was raging during the previous period forced the Iraqi forces to evacuate the Kurds in order to keep them away from the combat zones.

Second, Iraq carried out economic and agricultural programs. This forced not only the Kurds, but thousands of bedouins to evacuate their areas, thanks to the economic, agricultural, health, and educational programs completed deep inside Iraqi territory. This phenomenon is witnessed in all world states, not only in Iraq.

The Iraqi minister added that many Kurdish rebels used to force the residents of border villages to provide them with shelter and protection and also with supplies for their subversive activities and rebellion. He added: Therefore, Iraq made a decision to clear the region and eliminate once and for all the places where the rebels used to be in order to save citizens from their terrorism and rebellion. The Iraqi minister categorically denied the accusations levelled against Iraq that it used chemical weapons against the Kurds and called these accusations sheer lies and outright fabrication.

'Aziz also reacted to the Americans' accusations and said that the Kurdish rebels lied to the Americans when they fled to Turkey and told the Americans that they are civilians seeking refuge in Turkey. He said that this is untrue and added that nobody was able to provide one piece of evidence substantiating the allegation that Iraq used chemical weapons against the Kurds.

He added: So far, they have failed to provide even a sparrow killed by gas, as they say. He added that it is true that he made statements in the FRG capital saying that Iraq used chemical weapons against the Iranian forces. He continued: On several occasions, Iran attacked Iraq using hundreds of thousands of human waves whose objective was to either kill or get killed. In the face of this savage and barbaric assault, Iraq had no choice but to use its right to defend itself and protect its territorial integrity and its homeland. 'Aziz also reacted to the accusation levelled against Iraq that Iraq has not allowed UN experts to learn the facts pertaining to what happened by saying that Iraq does not allow anybody to interfere in its internal affairs, as such a thing would be an unacceptable precedent. He added that the peoples of this region are particularly sensitive toward foreign intervention regardless of its source. He went on to say that this Iraqi stand was not prompted by a fear that this [UN experts] committee would find evidence against Iraq.

Tariq 'Aziz accused the European states of hypocrisy, lying, and deception and said that the European industrial states supplied the weapons, ammunition, factories, and equipment needed to manufacture chemical weapons to all the Third World states which have acquired the chemical extermination weapons. He added: They sold us these weapons and now they are shedding crocodile tears. The Europeans are hypocrites. They sell you any weapon that you want.

Tariq 'Aziz pointed out that he spoke frankly to his colleague FRG Foreign Affairs Minister Genscher during his latest FRG visit in June and told him that Iraq feels that Bonn's diplomatic policy toward Iraq and Iran is not balanced and that Bonn seeks to please Iran and supports it against Iraq. The reason for this is the economic interests linking Iran to the FRG. As a matter of fact, it is not only the FRG which is pursuing this policy. Almost all Western states are pursuing it.

He added that the West is attempting to ask Iraq to show an understanding for this policy, advancing excuses that they [the West] do not want to see Iran isolated and that they want to see it return to the international community. However, I told Genscher that this is an opportunistic policy which cannot be accepted by Iraq.

'Aziz indicated that Iraq does not want to foil the Geneva peace talks and negotiations. However, he said neither does it want to rush these talks and negotiations. He affirmed that Iran was forced to end the war after it witnessed an irreversible and complete political, military, ethical, and ideological collapse.

The Iraqi minister pointed out that Iraq understands the current Iranian situation, as the leadership there is in a state of total collapse. He added: This makes it difficult for us to expect any immediate results from the negotiations.

'Aziz added that peace is a commitment. He said that the Iranian leadership is not in a position to announce its acceptance of commitments. Iraq is well aware of this and Baghdad, because of this, prepared itself for prolonged negotiations. Peace is prevailing with every passing day and this allows the Iranian leadership to return to its senses and see for itself the virtues and advantages of peace; nay, to see for itself that it is difficult and stupid to return to war.

The Iraqi minister warned the Iranian leadership of thinking that the cease-fire is a chance for rallying resources to pave the way for resuming the war and attacking Iraq and said: If the Iranian leadership does that, it would be making a big mistake, for which it would pay dearly.

'Aziz asserted that the recent Iranian military collapse was not caused, as some say, by the failure to secure ammunition and supplies, as the ammunition, weapons, men, and supplies were more than those required. He added that the main reason for this defeat is the ethical and ideological collapse of the Iranian leadership. He said it would be better for the Iranian leadership to ponder this fact and admit it. He warned Iran and said "that its losses would be devastating if it attempts to resume the war against Iraq".

The Iraqi minister asserted that the peace currently prevailing is fragile, as the current agreement is no more than a cease-fire agreement. He added that the UN observers are monitoring this cease-fire on land and in the air. The situation at sea is more difficult, as there are no UN observers to monitor the cease-fire in the Gulf region and the area of the Strait of Hormuz. That is why the dispute has remained unresolved as regards the concept of the freedom of navigation in the areas which I have just named, he said.

It is well-known that the Iranian Navy stops ships there and searches them. So far, they have continued to believe that they have the right to search Iraqi ships in the Gulf and the Strait of Hormuz 'Aziz added that the cease-fire agreement is the first step toward the attainment of a durable peace. He continued: Hence, Iraq demands that Iran and Iraq should enjoy the freedom of navigation in the Gulf and the Strait of Hormuz. Iraq believes that searching any Iraqi ship is a hostile action over which we cannot remain silent. Iraq asked the United Nations to dredge and clear the Shatt al-'Arab, as Baghdad believes that this is a part of the cease-fire agreement. It is unjust to see Iran organizing and using all of its ports and coasts while Iraq remains deprived of using its only port, the Shatt al-'Arab, which is Iraq's naval outlet to the Gulf region.

Tariq 'Aziz asserted that the Algiers agreement of 1975 has become a thing of the past and added that Iraq is not obligated to honor its provisions. He said that when the Iranian forces were occupying the Majnun islands, Al-Zubaydat, Halabjah , and other areas, Iran used to view the Algiers agreement as nonexistent and nonbinding to it. He continued: As a matter of fact, Iran seeks to occupy all Iraqi territory. Having undergone a military collapse, Iran has begun to say that it wants to see the Algiers agreement valid and enforced. He reiterated that Iran, which has shown disrespect for Iraq's borders and sovereignty for years, does not have the right now to demand that the Algiers agreement of 1975 be enforced.

In reply to the accusation that President Saddam Husayn is the one who abrogated the agreement on 19 September 1979, Tariq 'Aziz said: Tehran killed the agreement before that and Baghdad officially laid it to rest. 'Aziz accused the Iranian foreign minister of suffering from schizophrenia and also of showing ignorance even of his own country's history.

'Aziz added: The Iranian mind and thinking is very sick, and the Iranian leadership is suffering from schizophrenia. The one familiar with history finds that Iran has been for longer periods of time a part of Iraq and not the contrary as claimed by Iranian Foreign Minister Velayati who said that Iraq is a new country whose lifetime spans no more than 40 years and that nothing called Iraq existed before that.

Has he forgotten that Iran for long periods of time was part of the Kingdom of Assyria and Babylonia. He wondered how such a talk can be voiced by the foreign minister of an Islamic state, considering that this minister considers himself a pious Muslim. All at once, he reveals the truth pertaining to his chauvinism and his Persian racism, 'Aziz added.

Tariq 'Aziz affirmed his belief that Iran is still suffering from the expansion disease and said that the shah's crazy expansionist drive and his megalomania rather than social or economic reasons were behind his fall.

He added that this disease has remained uncured and said: The shah was crowned and sought to expand. In contrast, the Iranian leadership is currently wearing the

Islamic turban and seeks to achieve the same expansionist objectives. The Germans under Hitler's rule were suffering from the same disease; namely, the expansion disease. When they lost the war, they returned to their senses and became peaceful and this enabled their neighbors to coexist with them. Iran is currently suffering from this serious disease. However, we wish them [the Iranians] a speedy recovery.

Reportage on New Round of Peace Talks in Geneva

'Expanded Meeting' Begins 1 Nov

JN0111161888 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1525 GMT 1 Nov 88

[Text] Geneva, 1 Nov (INA)—The third round of direct negotiations between Iraq and Iran began here this afternoon. An expanded meeting was held at the Palais des Nations in Geneva under the foreign ministers of the two countries, Tariq 'Aziz and 'Ali Akbar Velayati. UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar attended the meeting.

The UN delegation under the secretary general was the first to enter Francesco di Vittoria hall at 1530. Three minutes later, the Iraqi and Iranian foreign ministers entered the hall simultaneously from two opposite doors. They headed toward their seats and sat with members of their delegations. The delegations are sitting in a disjointed triangle, with each of its sides consisting of a seperate table. The UN secretary general and his assistants occupy the base of the triangle.

This is the first face-to-face meeting of the two ministers since the second round of negotiations, concluded in New York on 1 September, and the fourth since the first round of direct negotiations between Iraq and Iran began in Geneva on 25 August.

The second meeting was held on 13 September and came at the end of the first round of talks.

Delegations To Meet Daily

JN0111172888 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1632 GMT 1 Nov 88

[Text] Geneva, 1 Nov (INA)—UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar has said that a daily meeting will be held between the UN delegation and the Iraqi and Iranian delegations to the direct negotiations between the two countries.

In a brief statement to journalists at the Palace of Nations today, he said: We have decided to hold a meeting every day within the framework of the negotiations, whether on the ministerial or experts level.

'Slight Change' in Procedures

JN0111174988 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1635 GMT 1 Nov 88

[Text] Geneva, 1 Nov (INA)—It was announced at the United Nation's European headquarters that a slight change will take place in the procedures preceding the first session of direct negotiations between Iraq and Iran which will be held at ministerial level at the Palace of Nations in Geneva at 1530 hours, Geneva time, within the framework of the third round of negotiations.

Mrs Therese Gastaut, information officer at the United Nation's European headquarters, said that UN Secretary General Perez de Cuellar will meet with Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati in his office at the Palace of Nations 15 minutes before the expanded meeting convenes.

In a statement to reporters, she added that after that the secretary general will meet with Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz at 1525 hours after which the ministerial meeting will begin at the scheduled time.

Mrs Gastaut said that this slight change was decided on this morning and both ministers were informed of the two new appointments. She affirmed that the other formalities pertaining to the entrance of the two delegates into the Francesco di Vittoria hall—the site of the ministerial meeting—will procede along the same lines as the first session, that is, the two delegations will enter the hall simultaneously from two separate doors facing each other.

On the other hand, the UN General Secretariate invited reporters and photographers of newspapers and television to fill out the special forms if they want to cover the events of the opening session of the expanded ministerial meeting of the third round in the direct negotiations between Iraq and Iran.

'Aziz Refutes Allegations

JN0111191088 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1820 GMT 1 Nov 88

[Text] Geneva, 1 Nov (INA)—Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, has refuted yesterday's allegations by 'Ali Akbar Velayati, Iranian Foreign Minister and head of the Iranian delegation to the direct negotiations and said that the Iranians do not want to understand that they should respect the rights of Iraq as a sovereign state.

Speaking to reporters in the Palais des Nations last night, 'Aziz said that the Iranian foreign minister's allegations that Iraq has a unilateral interpretation of Resolution No 598 is incorrect in part and parcel because Iraq was the first to accept the resolution while Iran was the first to reject it, adding that Iran accepted the resolution only after it had been defeated.

Tariq 'Aziz noted that the Iranian foreign minister permitted himself to say that Iraq should be blamed for the failure to realize progress in the negotiations and implement other paragraphs in the resolution. 'Aziz said that this statement is completely unacceptable because we have been discussing the first part of Paragraph 1 of the resolution pertaining to the cease-fire since the beginning of the direct negotiations last August.

'Aziz reiterated that the Iranians do not want to understand that they should respect the rights of Iraq as a sovereign state.

'Aziz explained that Iran's allegations concerning its right to inspect ships after the cease-fire was one of the two reasons that led to the impasse that has been halting the negotiations since 25 August.

'Aziz pointed out that Shatt al-'Arab is a waterway that can be used for navigation by Iraq as well as Iran now that a cease-fire has become effective. He said it is natural for the two countries to use their ports for innocent navigational purposes and to employ their naval facilities for peaceful purposes. 'Aziz asserted that Iraq has never tied the Shatt al-'Arab dredging operation to other political issues.

'Aziz explained that Iraq asked the UN secretary general for the United Nations to assume the responsibility of carrying out the technical part of the dredging opperation regardless of the legal status of the waterway.

Concluding his statement, which he made before the expanded session began, 'Aziz said that the legal status of the Shatt al-'Arab waterway can be discussed in the appropriate context according to the natural sequence of the paragraphs of Resolution No 598.

'Expanded Session' Concludes

JN0211070288 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 0400 GMT 2 Nov 88

[Text] The expanded ministerial session of the direct Iraq-Iran talks was concluded at the Palais des Nations at 2000 yesterday. This took place only a few minutes after Mrs Therese Gastaut said that the meeting would continue for another 2 or 3 hours.

Tariq 'Aziz and members of the Iraqi delegation were the first to leave the Palais des Nations at 2005.

UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar has said that the Iraqi and Iranian foreign ministers have agreed on a proposal he made during yesterday's session to the effect that all future meetings should be held on the ministerial level. He added that this does not include the possibility of holding meetings between the two sides on the experts level.

Answering a question on whether this was a good or bad sign regarding the progress of negotiations, Javier Perez de Cuellar said: Certainly, it is a good sign. Regarding his meeting with Bruner, Swiss minister of state for foreign affairs, Perez de Cuellar said: We exchanged views on several international issues, and not only on the current negotiations between Iraq and Iran.

Javier Perez de Cuellar pointed out that in case he leaves Geneva, then Jean Eliasson, his special representative at the negotiations, will assume responsibility for supervising these negotiations just as he did at part of the first session of Geneva talks.

Information Minister on Iranian 'Preconditions'

JN0211145388 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1410 GMT 2 Nov 88

[Text] Baghdad, 2 Nov (INA)—Culture and Information Minister Latif Nusayyif Jasim has affirmed that Iran is placing preconditions in the negotiations by linking the dredging of the Shatt al-'Arab waterway to the abrogated [Algiers] agreement of 1975.

In a statement to INA, the minister said that this Iranian condition will push the Iraqi-Iranian negotiations into an impasse and Iran will be held responsible for the consequences.

The minister added that linking the issue of the Shatt al-'Arab to that of the abrogated 1975 agreement hinders the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution No 598, as there is no reference in that resolution to the abrogated 1975 agreement, about which the Iranians are talking.

Latif Nusayyif Jasim stressed that Iraq will not bow to blackmail and preconditions and said: Resolution No 598 is clear and contains no preconditions such as those the Iranian officials are talking about.

The minister affirmed that entrenching the cease-fire on land, at sea, and in the air through securing the freedom of unhindered navigation in the Arabian Gulf and the Strait of Hormuz and also through dredging the Shatt al-'Arab is an essential issue that serves the two parties and constitutes a proper prelude to implementing the UN Security Council resolution and proceeding with the Iraqi-Iranian negotiations.

Jasim said that no progress can be made in the negotiations before the cease-fire has been entrenched in this clearly legal and operative manner.

The minister asserted that Iran is asked to show goodwill that can be used as a basis for the success of the negotiations and also for reaching a comprehensive and durable peace based on respect for the two country's sovereignty, rights, security, and independence.

Jasim called on the Iranian regime to stop setting forth preconditions that hinder peace efforts.

Iran's Mojahedin-e Khalq Releases 250 Nationals

NC3110124288 Paris AFP in English 1240 GMT 31 Oct 88

[Text] Baghdad, Oct 31 (AFP)—An Iranian opposition group, the Mojahedin-e Khalq, reported here Monday that it has released 250 Iranian prisoners being held in Iraq.

The group, in a communique sent to AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE, said the soldiers were freed Sunday to mark the anniversary of the birth of the Prophet Muhammad.

The 250 soldiers were captured in fighting during the Gulf war between the Iranian Army and the Iraqi-backed armed wing of the Mojahedin, the Iranian National Liberation Army, the communique said.

The former prisoners "now have complete freedom to choose their future life," it said, without specifying if any prisoners were repatriated.

The soldiers had been held in camps near the Iran-Iraq border. The latest release brings to 2,002 the number of Iranians freed during the last 12 months, the Baghdad-based organisation said.

The report came on the day that Iran-Iraq peace talks were reopening at the United Nations in Geneva.

Twenty-five Iranians and the same number of Iraqi prisoners were repatriated Sunday through the intermediary of the International Committee of the Red Cross.

Lebanon's Deputy Premier Sees RCC's Vice Chairman

JN0111121888 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1125 GMT 1 Nov 88

[Text] Baghdad, 1 Nov (INA)—RCC Vice Chairman 'Izzat Ibrahim today received 'Isam Abu Jamrah, Lebanese deputy prime minister and minister of post, telecommunications, housing, cooperatives, economy, and trade.

During the meeting, Ibrahim received a message for President Saddam Husayn from General Michel 'Awn, head of the transitional government in Lebanon. Ibrahim asked the Lebanese minister to convey President Saddam Husayn's wishes of progress to Lebanon and his greetings to Gen Michel 'Awn. Ibrahim also reiterated Iraq's firm support for Lebanon to safeguard its unity and sovereignty.

Abu Jamrah expressed Lebanon's appreciation for and pride in Iraq's support for his country to safeguard its unity and sovereignty and to confront all plans to undermine legitimacy and partition Lebanon.

The Lebanese minister extended congratulations on the Iraqi people's victories in defense of the Arab homeland's eastern border.

Confers With Ramadan

JN0111174688 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 1 Nov 88

[Text] Taha Yasin Ramadan, RCC member and first deputy prime minister, today received 'Isam Abu Jamrah, Lebanese deputy prime minister and minister of post, telecommunications, housing, cooperatives, economy, and trade. He is currently in Iraq to attend the opening of the 25th session of Baghdad International Fair.

During the meeting, satisfaction was expressed for the development of the fraternal bilateral relations and the assertion of a serious joint desire to increase cooperation between the two countries. Mr Ramadan voiced Iraq's support for and backing of fraternal Lebanon in consolidating the national unity of its people and land according to the Lebanese Constitution and the fair and responsible pan-Arab stand.

Mr Abu Jamrah voiced the Lebanese people's pride and appreciation for Iraq's honest pan-Arab positions. He pointed out that the great victories achieved by the Iraqis against the Iranian aggressors, which foiled the Khomeynite Zionist plots, are victories for Lebanon and all the Arabs. He added: Under the leadership of President Saddam Husayn, Iraq has flown high the banner of Arabism and strengthened the capability of the Arab nation.

Ramadan Opens 25th Baghdad International Fair

JN0111182488 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1220 GMT 1 Nov 88

[Excerpt] Baghdad, 1 Nov (INA)—The 25th Baghdad International Fair was opened here today, with 2,200 companies from 62 Arab and foreign countries taking part.

In an opening speech, Taha Yasin Ramadan, RCC member and first deputy prime minister, stressed that the wide-scale Arab and foreign participation in this fair is yet another indication of the strength and development of Iraq's economic relations with the Arab and foreign countries. It provides an important opportunity for companies and establishments to become acquainted with the reality of Iraq's economy and future development plans.

He added: This fair is characterized by the fact that it is being held in the year of peace and victory over the Iranian aggressors, a year in which Iraq foiled the Khomeyniite, Zionist, and imperialist conspiracy and destroyed its aggressive aim of hindering the march of development.

He added: Iraq has drafted a general framework for its temporary and long term economic relations with world countries with a view to expanding these relations, putting them in the service of development and national economy, and benefiting from the important technology of developed countries.

Mr Ramadan explained that Iraq's foreign policy is based on national and pan-Arab principles and considerations. It also believes in the necessity of establishing international relations on the bases of equality and the exchange of legitimate and fair benefits. Iraq's foreign policy also rejects any form of domination and interference in the internal affairs of any party, he said.

He reviewed economic developments in Iraq and its development plans. He said: Iraq has sought speedy and comprehensive development and aimed at making radical progress that secures the requirements of economic construction and guarantees better and competent investment of all the abundant natural and material resources and advanced human capabilities so that the Iraqis can enjoy welfare and economic and social prosperity.

He pointed out that the substantial changes in the sectors of the Iraqi economy have resulted in a big rise in the national and per capita income. They improved the standard of living for the Iraqis even under the exceptional circumstances of the war. He explained that the national income rose by 16 percent annually, with the per capita income reaching 818 Iraqi dinars compared to 112 dinars in 1968. [passage omitted]

'Military Daily' on New Round of Iraq-Iran Talks

JN3110132888 Baghdad INA in English 1130 GMT 31 Oct 88

[Text] Baghdad, Oct. 31, INA—The new round of direct negotiations between Iraq and Iran would put to test once again the Iranian regime's intentions towards several isseus directly and substantially related to the implementation of the Security Council Resolution No. 598 and establishment of comprehensive and lasting peace, an Iraqi military daily said.

In an editorial published here today, AL-QADISIYAH mentioned that the Iranian regime tried once and again to mix several issues, lessen the significance of these issues and ignore the importance of their sequential order and objective interconnection in order to obstruct optimal implementation of the Security Council resolution.

The military daily remarked that Tehran rulers since the start of negotiations were exercising overt games to realize illegitimate gains that they failed to obtain during the war and to take advantage, at the expense of Iraq, of privileges provided to them by the ceasefire opportunity.

AL-QADISIYAH stressed "no one and no power can undermine the sovereignty of Iraq and its historical rights to land, waters and internal options, for Iraq has offered costly sacrifices to defend its existence, security and sovereignty."

The Iranian officials had to grasp these facts put together, for "they are inseparable as big events and battles as well as decisive duels proved over years of the war", AL-QADISIYAH said.

Paper Urges Iran To Negotiate Peace Agreement

JN0111120488 Baghdad INA in English 1030 GMT 1 Nov 88

[Text] Baghdad, Nov. 1, INA—AL-THAWRAH paper urged Iran to negotiate to reach a new agreement of lasting, just and comprehensive peace to secure both parties' legitimate rights, enable them to establish relations of good neighbourliness and mutual. Respect and guarantee security and stability of the region.

AL-THAWRAH said that Iraq "enters into Geneva negotiations with good intentions and a deep, serious keenness to make the negotiations a success."

In its editorial of today, the Iraqi paper held Iran responsible for floundering the negotiations and scoring no progress up to now. Iran was holding on to an agreement buried by its rulers more than eight years ago, AL-THAWRAH mentioned.

The paper stressed that Iraq proved, through tangible evidence, measures and arrangements, that it was not interested in war, it didn't plan it or had any greedy intentions in Iran.

"Iraq strongly and decisively refuses any bid to infringe upon its legitimate and inalienable rights and the Iranian rulers have to grasp this basic pact," the paper noted.

It mentioned that the new round of negotiations started in the aftermath of the failure of the hectic campaign fabricated by Zionism international and some international circles to distort the image of Iraq and influence its stand at the negotiations.

Iraq was determined to turn down all attempts aimed at influencing its stand in favour of the Iranian regime, the daily said.

Iraq's approval of the proposal of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) to repatriate prisoners of war (POWS) embodied once again Iraq's good intention and serious, sincere desire to realize firm, comprehensive and just peace, at a time when Iran rejected the proposal of the ICRC insisting to link the issue of POWS with political issues to be discussed during the negotiations.

'Updated Results' on Knesset Election Given

TA0211111988 [Editorial Report]

Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew at 1059 GMT on 2 November announces the following updated results of the Knesset elections, quoted in Knesset seats, based on returns of "all civilian ballot boxes":

Party	Knesset Seats
Alignment:	38
Likud:	39
Mapam:	3
Tehiya:	3
Citizens Rights Movement:	5
National Religious Party:	5
SHAS (Torah Observing Sephardim):	6
HADASH (Democratic Front for Peace and Equality):	5
Center-Shinuy:	2
Progressive List for Peace:	2
United Torah Jewry:	5
Tzomet:	2
Arab Democratic Party:	1
Moledet:	2
Haredi Union-Degel Hatora:	2

Shamir on Early Poll Results, Coalition Contacts

TA0111230388 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 2235 GMT 1 Nov 88

[Interview with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir by Ya'el Dayan at Likud headquarters in Tel Aviv—live]

[Text] [Dayan] Do you already have the agreement of any of the religious parties to be part of a government led by the Likud?

[Shamir] We have not reached that point in our talks. We will start our talks tomorrow.

[Dayan] You have not yet spoken with any of the leaders of the religious parties?

[Shamir] We have meetings scheduled.

[Dayan] With whom did you schedule meetings?

[Shamir] With all the religious parties.

[Dayan] Have any of them hinted that they are prepared to go along with you?

[Shamir] We are not dealing with hints. I am sure that we will agree on the establishment of a government.

[Dayan] On what is your confidence based?

[Shamir] It is based on my knowledge of the people and their positions.

[Dayan] Mr Shamir, the television straw poll shows 39 or perhaps 40 Knesset seats for the Likud at this point. Are you not disappointed by these results?

[Shamir] If one analyzes the entire picture, there seems to have been some kind of upheaval in favor of the religious parties; we should look there for all our numerous sympathizers.

[Dayan] How did that happen? Where did you fail?

[Shamir] This is not a failure. Such processes occur all the time.

[Dayan] You know, sir, I was here this evening, and it is hard for me to say that there was great elation. Rather, there was a great deal of disappointment.

[Shamir] Well, our people wanted more and they deserve it. Still, we should wait and see; perhaps the situation will change in our favor. In any event, the situation at present enables us—or compels us, rather—to form a government.

[Dayan] Does it compel you to form a government with Rehav'am Ze'evi and Refa'el Eytan as Cabinet ministers?

[Shamir] Look, after all, one need not include all one's assets in the partnership.

[Dayan] Are you thus hinting that you will not be obliged to give them ministerial positions?

[Shamir] I am not hinting at anything. Anything is possible when it comes to forming coalitions.

[Dayan] Such as the establishment of a national unity government, which I did not hear you mention so far? Why have you not invited the Alignment?

[Shamir] It is too early to talk about it.

[Dayan] Do you conceive of the possibility of calling on Shim'on Peres to set up a government similar to the one you both established 4 years ago?

[Shamir] I am very cautious by nature. In principle, I have never ruled out such a possibility, but in practice we must wait and see.

[Dayan] Have you spoken with Shim'on Peres this evening?

[Shamir] No.

[Dayan] Do you plan to speak to him?

[Shamir] Not this evening.

[Dayan] Mr Shamir, I thank you very much.

Shamir Speech Expresses Confidence of Victory

TA0211002288 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 2310 GMT 1 Nov 88

[Speech by Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir at Likud headquarters in Tel Aviv—live]

[Text] Deputy Prime Minister David Levi, Knesset members, my fellow Cabinet ministers, honorable ladies and gentlemen: We do not yet have the absolute and final results of the elections to the 12th Knesset. All we have is a straw poll and figures that keep changing every other minute. However, according to the data we have obtained, it seems to us that the current situation will oblige and enable the Likud to formulate the new Israeli government soon. [applause]

Beginning tomorrow morning we will proceed to work feverishly on the formation of a government. I do not think there is any need at this point to analyze the figures because they keep changing. At the same time, I would like to thank the thousands of Likud activists for the enormous efforts they have invested in the last few days and the last month in repelling the all-round onslaught on the Likud and in succeeding in creating this huge bloc of votes which enables the Likud alone to run the State of Israel and to form its government. [applause]

I thank the Israeli people for the great confidence it has placed in us, and I am sure we will not disappoint them just as we did not disappoint them in the past. As I have already mentioned, tomorrow morning we will begin holding meetings with those partners with whom we believe we can form a government.

In this election campaign the Likud resisted an onslaught on all flanks. Temptations of the lowest kind were proffered and a campaign of intimidation and slander was conducted in order to put down the Likud. It was hinted at and it was even stated out loud that voting or support for the Likud or for those parties close to it would be tantamount to bringing about war, to doing away with all the chances for peace.

From this podium, we declare that these are slanderous and libelous lies. The Likud, when it becomes the leader of the Israeli Government and runs the country, will make every possible effort to attain peace with our Arab neighbors as soon as possible. [applause]

We are confident that this is possible, and that peace—as we perceive it—with our neighbors will not harm Israel's security interests and will not contradict the principles of the national camp.

At the same time, we are convinced that this is the wish of the Israeli people. The Israeli people want to keep Eretz Yisra'el, it wants to preserve the security of the Israeli people, and at the same time, it yearns for peace—and this is attainable. [applause]

The Likud will conduct a responsible and serious policy in all the country's vital spheres: in the political-security sphere, in the economic sphere, and in the social sphere. We will try to serve the nation according to its wishes and desires, as they were reflected in the Knesset elections.

We have no doubt that within the parties that have increased their strength in this election there are many people who have views that are very close to ours in all the vital spheres I enumerated, if not identical with those of the Likud, and a Likud-led government will give it expression. I hope very much that it will not be too long before we can present to the Israeli people and the Knesset a good and the broadest possible national government. I thank you very much. [applause]

Peres Addresses Alignment Supporters

TA0211002988 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 2347 GMT 1 Nov 88

[Speech by Shim'on Peres, vice prime minister and foreign minister, at Alignment campaign headquarters—live]

[Text] The election results are not final yet, although the trends are quite clear. What is obvious is that the religious bloc has grown. Of the two other blocs—one aspiring to political negotiations, the other being the nationalist bloc—the bloc striving for political negotiations has won a majority. [applause]

I reject the Likud's attempt to annex all the religious voters. We all know the religious public is not homogenous as far as political issues are concerned. This is the truth that we keep constantly in mind. We will wait for the final results, but we will launch negotiations with the religious parties tonight and continue them tomorrow.

I would like to say one thing about the nature of the election campaign: This time we had a very clear message to the voter, the only message, in my opinion, that conveys what is possible and necessary for the State of Israel. [applause] This message contains peace, security, economic recovery; all three forming a whole.

The problem we confronted was not primarily how to form a government. We did not follow the path of ignoring the vital issues with which the country has to deal. We opted for the way of clarifying Israel's needs for the future.

We had to cope with the situation under very difficult conditions, when tempers flared up in a time overshadowed by terrorism. Nevertheless, we did not hide our stands one iota.

We will fight every manifestation of terror. We will struggle if there is the slightest chance for negotiations. This message remains valid.

I know that the problems the country confronts are not simple, and I am therefore surprised at the ease with which the Likud has allegedly formed a government. Even if the Likud wishes to form a government, it depends on that great and noble concept called transfer, because that concept received two Knesset seats. Also, I do not yet know what the stands of all the religious parties will be.

I think I speak on behalf of all of you if I say this: We have conducted a sincere, brave, and right struggle for the sake of the country and its future. I thank all of the colleagues gathered here, the tens of thousands of party supporters throughout the country.

My colleagues and I visited the party branches yesterday and today, and we were very much moved by the large number of volunteers. This is the first election campaign in which we had more volunteers than we needed. I was moved by the sight of the many young people who joined the party. [applause]

Even as I view the latest [television] polls, the result is 49 seats for the ideas we support, versus 47 for the right wing's ideas. The rest, as said, are the religious parties.

Our flags will not be folded up. [applause] We will continue struggling for issues we deem important and decisive for the country. We will do so seriously. We never deluded ourselves that Israel's problems would end with the act of forming a government. They will continue after that, as well. The issues that await us are so serious and weighty that they should be treated with the utmost levelheadedness.

Again, thank you, keep up your morale, do not lose your faith. In the next 24 hours we will make an effort to take care of the coalition aspects and examine the possibility of forming a government. [applause]

I thank the hundreds of thousands of voters who put their trust in us, our way, our banners. I thank them from the bottom of my heart.

Shamir: No Unity Government 'for the Moment'
TA0211045988 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 0410 GMT 2 Nov 88

[Interview with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir by Shlomo Ganor at Likud headquarters in Tel Aviv; date not given—recorded]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] [Ganor] Do you exclude the possibility of inviting the Alignment to join the new government?

[Shamir] The possibility of what is termed a unity government as it existed until today does not seem conceivable, in view of the profound differences between the two camps and after the bitter election campaign conducted by the two parties.

[Ganor] Is this answer final?

[Shamir] It is final for the moment.

[Ganor] Sir, will the new government be guided by lines similar to those of the outgoing government?

[Shamir] I will insist that this government define its policies according to the guidelines of the previous government, mainly on political and defense issues.

[Ganor] The world is now watching Likud headquarters, as are the Israeli Arabs and the residents of the territories. What political message can you convey to them tonight?

[Shamir] I thank you for the question. This is an opportunity to tell our neighbors and our friends throughout the world, as well as those who are not our friends, that contrary to what has been published and said regarding the Likud's opposition to peace with our Arab neighbors, the Likud is the camp of peace.

In principle, the Likud strives to attain a peace agreement with Israel's neighbors. The differences lie in the ways in which peace can be achieved. We believe the most realistic and just way to attain peace at the earliest possible date is in the same way we embarked upon in the government led by Mr Menahem Begin—that way is the Camp David accords. As is known, these accords were not fully implemented.

After the peace agreement with Egypt was signed, negotiations were launched between Israel and Egypt on the solution of the Palestinian problem. It was called something different then, but the meaning is the same.

To our deep regret, those negotiations were discontinued by Egypt approximately 6 years ago. Some time ago we had a chance to hear President Mubarak, who was interviewed by a Kuwaiti paper, say that he is sorry the negotiations were stopped. We, too, are sorry.

If both sides are sorry, we see no reason not to resume the negotiations, for we believe the same approach can be productive in achieving a just arrangement which would be a gradual process, but which will lead the parties to a peace settlement.

Peres: 'No Point' in Meeting With Shamir

TA0211065688 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0505 GMT 2 Nov 88

[Telephone interview with Shim'on Peres, vice prime minister and foreign minister, by Shalom Qital and Gabi Gazit—live]

[Text] [Qital] Good morning, Mr Peres.

[Peres] Good morning.

[Qital] How do the election results look to you at this hour?

[Peres] From the political point of view, our bloc received 48 seats, the Likud bloc received 46 or 44, while the religious got 18. The problem now revolves around the religious parties. The question is whether they have political stands. It is one thing if all the religious parties have a single view and quite another if they hold different views. This will become clear during the day.

[Qital] Mr Peres, do you believe that with these results, there is anything for you to discuss with the religious bloc? In our earlier discussion with the prime minister, his voice conveyed a great deal of confidence that he and the religious bloc will set up a government in the very near future.

[Peres] There is something to talk about. We will talk and listen. We do not, of course, have to make instant decisions.

[Qital] Of course.

[Gazit] Mr Peres, we heard that Mr Shamir is not eager to join up with you. If you had the opportunity, if the choice was up to you, and if all the options were open, what would you prefer—you and the religious parties or you and Yitzhaq Shamir?

[Peres] First and foremost, we fought for our ideals. In my opinion, ideals come first. We will check to see if we can move along the path we propose together with the religious. I believe that we do not have a joint future with the Likud.

[Gazit] Having said that you fought for your way, Mr Peres, are the results of these elections not an expression of no-confidence in the path you proposed?

[Peres] The election results do not constitute the choice of a certain path, because what surprised us are the very large number of votes given to the religious parties. I would not say that all the religious people have extremist rightist views.

[Qital] But there are also other points, aside from the political outlook: there is the way of life in Israel and the question of getting portfolios. Should the religious parties want to join up with you, how much would you be prepared to pay them?

[Peres] I am not buying or selling, and I do not hold coalition negotiations by telephone. We will listen to what they want. They are not all of a single opinion; I believe that each religious group stresses a different issue. In any case, I am not prepared to state in advance what I will discuss with the religious parties or to sum up the talks themselves.

[Gazit] Mr Peres, it may be too early, but in view of the drop in the Alignment's strength, there was talk during the night that the present leadership, under your direction, should take responsibility for these election results. Do you feel the same?

[Peres] I certainly take responsibility for these election results—not only I, but all of us together.

[Qital] Mr Peres, are you going to meet with Yitzhaq Shamir today?

[Peres] Such a meeting has not been fixed.

[Qital] Do you want to meet with him?

[Peres] If I do, I will tell him. You are trying to create news all the time.

[Qital] No, we want to hear the news.

[Peres] You heard Yitzhaq Shamir's remarks; therefore, I see no point in a meeting. His remarks were very straightforward. He said he does not consider us a partner, and the truth is that we do not share a common path.

[Qital] Do you see yourself sitting in the opposition for the next 4 years?

[Peres] We have been in the opposition in the past. I see myself as remaining loyal to our path. I do not think that our only concern is being in power.

[Qital] Mr Peres, in your short reply to Gazit's remark on the leadership's responsibility...

[Peres, interrupting] You expect me to provide you with all the answers first thing in the morning. I will weigh the possibilities.

[Qital] Of course. We are only asking.

[Peres] I know. There is time. I will consider the possibilities. Nothing is urgent.

[Qital] What I mean is that in reply to the earlier question, you said that not only you but the entire leadership has responsibility.

[Peres] That is incorrect. I have never shirked responsibility, and I am not doing so now.

[Qital] Thank you very much, Shim'on Peres.

Peres 'Burned all the Bridges' to Coalition

TA0211075288 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0655 GMT 2 Nov 88

[Telephone interview with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir by Shalom Qital "90 minutes ago"—recorded]

[Text] [Shamir] I do not think that the possibility of a coalition with the Alignment is realistic, because the main confrontation was between the Likud and the Alignment. I do not consider such a possibility realistic at the moment.

[Qital] What you are now saying is: No government with Peres; a government with the Tehiya, Gandhi [Rehav'am Ze'evi] of Modelet, and the religious parties.

[Shamir] That is, of course, more realistic.

[Qital] On the supposition that you come to an agreement with the religious factions, Mr Shamir, can you also find a common path with Gandhi's transfer idea and have him join your new government?

[Shamir] The negotiations are not over ideas; they are with representatives of lists.

[Qital] But, Mr Shamir, the representatives come with ideas.

[Shamir] Look, in brief, when we set up a coalition we work out guidelines, and these do not have to include all the principles held by all the partners.

[Qital] In the past you spoke with great enthusiasm about a national unity government and the positive elements of such a government, yet we do not hear such enthusiasm from you this morning.

[Shamir] It was also not heard just before the elections, not because it is a bad idea, but because our main partner to the idea rejected it from the start. By putting the international conference and everything involved in that as the top priority, Mr Peres burned all the bridges to a unity government.

Religious Groups Ready To Negotiate Coalitions

TA0211115888 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 2 Nov 88

[Text] Probably the biggest winner in the elections is the ultraorthodox SHAS Torah Guardians Party, which went up from four seats in the outgoing Knesset to six in the new house. Our reporter asked their spokesman, the brother of their leader Rabbi Yitzhaq Peretz, whether they will inevitably want to join a Likud-led coalition.

[Begin spokesman recording] We have not said that. We have said that our tendency is for the right, naturally, because the people that vote—the bulk of the SHAS party—are people with a tendency for the right, but our options are open.

We will talk with the Likud, and we will talk with the left, with the Alignment. We will be having meetings already within 24 hours with both parties, and we will see what will come out of these talks. We are open for all kinds of options. [end recording]

Members of a special electoral committee for the Degel Hatorah Party met this morning at the home of Rabbi Shas in Jerusalem. The party, which contested the elections for the first time, won two seats. The committee discussed responses to coalition approaches by the large parties, and we asked the Degel Hatorah leader, Rabbi Avraham Ravitz, what conditions he will be making for joining a coalition.

[Begin Ravitz recording] I know what would be before conditions: I think that the party that would understand that we have the civil rights of the ultraorthodox people, the civil rights like any other group here in Israel, with everything that has to do with education and other things like this. A party that wouldn't understand it—we wouldn't make any coalition with them.

We are going to sit today with both parties. We have two appointments: one with Mr Peres and the other one with Mr Shamir. So we don't exclude any of them for negotiations. [end recording]

HA'ARETZ Warns Against Vote for Likud

TA0111121888 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 1 Nov 88 p 13

[Editorial: "Put the Likud Back in the Opposition"]

[Text] Over the last 2 years, "the national unity government" has in fact turned into a Likud government. Yitzhaq Shamir, in his role as prime minister, saw his main goal to be blocking Shim'on Peres, who, as foreign minister, wished to restore the momentum of the peace process between us and the Arabs.

Blocking the way to any political initiative, which was the intention of the Likud leader, is the one achievement he can be proud of. Shamir could not increase the number of settlements in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, as the Tehiya Movement demanded of him; in its foreign policy, however, the Likud did follow the spirit of its right-wing opposition party.

Just as the Likud aligned itself with the Tehiya in the political arena, so it worked to appease the religious parties. The Finance Ministry, led by a representative of the Liberal faction of the Likud, found huge sums of

money to satisfy the appetite of the ultraorthodox education establishments. The wholesale draft dodging by the fanatic yeshiva students did not bother the Likud—not even its Liberal faction.

The State of Israel—born out of the Zionist Movement and the East European Jewry enlightenment—has, under the rule of the Likud, acquired the image of a state clearly characterized by chauvinism in the political arena and orthodoxy in the religious sphere.

Such a state does not conform to the wishes of most of the diaspora Jews; hence, there is no wonder that cracks have appeared in U.S. Jewry's wall of solidarity with Israel.

The Likud, the Tehiya, and most of the religious and ultraorthodox parties are not expected to change. On the contrary: Shamir promises to add new settlements in the administered territories; he proposes direct negotiations with the Arab countries, knowing that no Arab element is willing to participate in negotiations based on the Camp David accords. His stubborn adherence to the idea of the integrity of western Eretz Yisra'el can only further isolate Israel in the local and international arena and deepen the West Bank and Gaza Strip Arab residents' hatred of Israeli rule.

Shamir does not answer when asked who will be defense minister should he maintain his position as prime minister. But everywhere little birds are telling us that Ari'el Sharon has his eyes fixed on resuming this post. Few words are needed to describe the danger of this prediction coming true.

Several satellites accompany the Likud: Tehiya, Tzomet, and Moledet. This last movement clearly supports the notion of "transfer"—meaning the transfer of Arabs across the boundaries of Israel. There is no way to implement this idea other than by mass deportation, as a byproduct of war. The Tzomet leader's opinions on the Arabs are well known. Ge'ula Kohen and Yuval Ne'eman are more cautious in what they say, but in their heart they agree with Rehav'am Ze'evi.

Whoever votes today for the Likud and its satellites—both religious and secular—may be contributing to creating a situation which, in the first stage, would push the Arab residents of the territories into escalating the intifada [uprising]; in the second stage, would alienate Egypt from the peace agreement; and, in the third stage, would help create a pan-Arab coalition. Furthermore, there is no guarantee of U.S. support, as in previous wars.

The Likud and its allies must be blocked. The future of the State of Israel must not be placed in the hands of those who frivolously believe that Israel can risk the hostility of all its neighbors and the cold shoulder from international elements.

Any citizen—Arab or Jew—who refrains from political and military adventurism and does not want to be misled by remarks that the bells of redemption started sounding in 1967 should vote against the Likud and against all the other parties in its vicinity; he should give his vote to one of the components in the camp that wishes to strengthen Israel's security through a political arrangement with the Arab world. Shamir and his men must be sent back to the opposition benches.

AL-NAHAR Polls Israeli Arabs on Election

TA0111173188 Jerusalem AL-NAHAR in Arabic 31 Oct 88 p 8

[Results of poll conducted by AL-NAHAR, "less than one week before the elections," in 10 geographical districts in the Arab sector in Israel, with the participation of 800 male and female voters]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted]

Name of party	No of seats
HADASH [Democratic Front for Peace and Equality]	4 plus
Progressive List for Peace [PLP]	2 plus
MAPAM	1 minus
Likud	1 plus
Citizens Rights Movement [CRM]	2 minus
Arab Democratic Party	2 minus
Center-Shinuy	1/2
Alignment	2 minus
Other parties	1/2

Votes in percentage

Name of party	Percent
HADASH	20.9
PLP	11.0
MAPAM	4.6
Alignment	9.5
Likud	5.1
CRM	8.1
Arab Democratic Party	9.9
Center-Shinuy	2.3
National Religious Party	1.1
Tehiya	0.4
SHAS [Torah Observing Sephardim]	0.1
Tzomet	0.25
Moledet	0.5
Memad	0.1
Other parties	0.4
Kakh	0.0
AGUDAT Yisra'el	0.0
Abstaining	25.0

Ethiopian Agriculture Minister on 'Secret' Visit
JN0111151288 Kuwait AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM in Arabic 31 Oct 88, p 1

[Text] London—British sources have said that the Ethiopian minister of agriculture arrived in occupied Palestine 3 days ago within the framework of a secret visit during which he will meet with a number of Israeli officials.

The paper added that the Ethiopian minister met with the Israeli enemy Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir, Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres, and Agriculture Minister Arye Nehamkin. He held important discussions with them centering on the Ethiopian Jews, the Falashas, and joint cooperation between Israel and Ethiopia in agriculture.

Dinitz, Kaplan Depart for Moscow Without Visas
TA0111173288 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 1 Nov 88

[Text] Simcha Dinitz, the chairman of the World Zionist Organization, and Mendel Kaplan, the chairman of the Jewish Agency board of governors, left for Moscow on a direct flight from Jerusalem.

They still do not have Soviet visas, but the matter will reportedly be resolved in Moscow. Dinitz and Kaplan will probably meet with Foreign Minister Shevardnadze.

Shamir, Peres React to Jericho, Jerusalem Attacks
TA0111171488 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 1 Nov 88

[Text] The prime minister and the vice prime minister have reacted to this morning's attack in Jerusalem. Mr Shamir said there has recently been an escalation in terrorism. The terrorists inside the territories are being directed from outside the country.

The prime minister sent a message to the three wounded wishing them a speedy recovery. He talked to reporters during a visit to Likud election headquarters in Tel Aviv.

Shim'on Peres stated, during a tour of Haifa polling stations, that it is the two latest grave attacks in Jericho and Jerusalem, and not talks, which are the real interventions in the election campaign. The acts of violence arouse extremism in Israel.

He reiterated that the attack in Jericho was an irregular act and the punishment must also be irregular. The remarks by both personalities were given to us by our correspondents 'Oded Ben-'Ami and Haviva Roger.

Shomron: IDF To Adopt 'All Necessary' Deterrents
TA0111151488 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0600 GMT 31 Oct 88

[Telephone interview with Lieutenant General Dan Shomron, chief of the General Staff, by Mikha Friedman and Ilana Dayan—live]

[Text] [Friedman] Good morning, Mr Chief of Staff.

[Shomron] Good morning.

[Friedman] Can you tell us that the terrorist squad that carried out the criminal act at the northern entrance to Jericho is truly in our hands?

[Shomron] First of all, let me start by saying that a very vile murder, in which a mother and her three children were killed, occurred here last night. Although we have always known that the hundreds of Molotov cocktails and makeshift bombs that are being hurled can end in a disaster, it is heartbreaking to actually see the burned bodies in the bus.

[Dayan] Then you have visited the scene?

[Shomron] Yes, I was there. Let me take this opportunity to express my personal condolences and the sympathy of the entire IDF to the bereaved family. Let us wish the wounded a quick recovery.

Regarding the squad itself, or those who carried out the crime: The IDF was very near the scene of the action, with a unit only a few meters from the site. As a result, it quickly tracked down the suspects. At this stage, I can only say that I have good reason to believe that the perpetrators of the attack are indeed in our hands.

[Friedman] Can you tell us specifically to which terrorist organization they belong?

[Shomron] They are still considered suspects, so I would not like to say. [Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew at 0730 GMT on 31 October reports that some of the squad members "are not local residents, but came from the Bethlehem area.

Immediately after the incident, the footprints of the bomb throwers were traced and with the help of scouts and dogs, the Jericho house where the first suspect stayed was located. In the investigation, he admitted to having perpetrated the act and led his interrogators to the other suspects."]

[Dayan] According to the initial debriefing, was this indeed a carefully planned ambush?

[Shomron] The phrase carefully planned ambush sounds as if a crack military unit carried out the operation. What it actually did involve was several primitive individuals, armed with firebombs, who simply waited for the bus.

Let me also emphasize that thousands of vehicles, including buses, travel along the roads in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza every day. I think they enjoy a reasonable degree of security, thanks to a major investment of forces. I believe it is possible to continue to use these axes even though it is impossible to provide 100 percent, foolproof guarantees that no such incidents will occur in the future.

I would therefore also like to point out that the fact that a bus was once seriously attacked as it passed the Country Club on the coastal road would never cause any of us to imagine that no buses or other vehicles should travel along that road.

[Friedman] You must have learned something from the initial investigation into this latest attack. Would you care to share this with us, within the limits of what you may divulge?

[Shomron] Look, as I said, IDF escorts and patrols secured the traffic. Indeed, a foot patrol was very close to the scene of the attack; consequently, these forces were able to quickly capture the suspects, as well as help extricate the victims from the bus.

I would not like to go into the other lessons we learned. We are investing forces in this. Let me add that, as we said previously, we will capture the criminals—whether Jews or Arabs—who harm soldiers and civilians. We do capture them. No doubt other civilians in the area who may not be directly involved in the attacks will also suffer during the investigation and searches, but this is part of the process.

[Dayan] Meanwhile, sir, a curfew has been imposed on the town of Jericho, and I also understand that the trees on both sides of the road have been uprooted and that this improves visibility along the road. Do you intend to extend the curfew for another few days?

[Shomron] We will do so as warranted, until we are sure that we have tracked down the people we are looking for. We will adopt all the necessary measures that can serve as a deterrent in the future.

[Friedman] Thank you very much, Mr Chief of Staff, Dan Shomron.

[Shomron] Thank you.

Attacks on 'Innocent Civilians' Condemned

TA0111180288 Jerusalem AL-FAJR in Arabic 1 Nov 88 pp 1, 12

[Editorial: "Against Civilian Violence"]

[Text] When violence becomes a tool for killing defenseless innocent civilians, it enters into a very dark tunnel in which the blows become aimless, arousing further resentment and intense hatred. Our Palestinian people have opposed this tunnel over many years and are continuing their civilized opposition, adhering to their deep humanitarian nature to achieve their legitimate national objectives.

Since violence breeds violence by all sides, particularly when unarmed civilians are involved, our people, represented by the PLO, have condemned any attack on defenseless civilians in their own ranks as well as in the ranks of the other side. Our people affirm that harming the lives of women, children, and elderly people will only lead to hatred between nations and squandering of real chances for dialogue and peace.

Since we are calling for dialogue and peace, and since the continuing events in the occupied land fall basically within the framework of this deep humanitarian call, we possess the courage to proclaim our rejection of all forms of violence against defenseless civilians from any side. We reiterate that we stand by the civilian victims.

We also affirm our deep concern for the protection of these civilians so that they are not pushed into the tunnels of hatred and resentment at this very stage when all of us are moving to destroy these tunnels and enlighten hearts and minds with the call for a comprehensive and just peace for all nations.

In the final analysis, the only way to end this civilian violence and prevent it from obliterating vision, is to hasten the political moves for resolving the Palestinian-Israeli conflict and to strengthen the chances of the current opportunity for achieving peace in the region.

Fatah 'Terrorist' Boat Apprehended 3 Months Ago

TA0111224588 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2200 GMT 1 Nov 88

[Text] It was reported today that Israeli Navy vessels apprehended a boat carrying Fatah terrorists 3 months ago. Our army affairs correspondent Karmela Menashe reports that the boat, the "Dorothy," was captured in the middle of the Mediterranean Sea with four officers and two crewmen of Fatah's naval forces on board.

The ensuing interrogation of the terrorists revealed that the boat had been on its way to Libya, where Fatah has been establishing its naval force. Over the past few years, Israel's Navy has thwarted this force's attempts to stage terrorist attacks.

Strikes, Incidents Reported in Territories

2 Arab Youths Shot by IDF

TA0111151888 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 1 Nov 88

[Text] Two Arab youths were injured by IDF gunfire during disturbances in Judaea and Samaria. The first shooting occurred in the casbah in Nabulus, and the other in the village of Dhannabah near Tulkarm.

Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that all the refugee camps in Judaea and Samaria are under curfew. A general strike is being observed virtually throughout the territories.

'Uprising' Casualties Differ

TA0111171388 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 1 Nov 88

[Text] The IDF spokesman says that 231 Arab inhabitants of the territories have been killed since the start of the uprising. This was told to our correspondent Karmela Menashe following the publication of figures by the PLO command in Tunis.

The PLO claims that the number of fatalities in the territories is more than double that figure and has reached 513, of whom 41 were killed last month. Arab sources in the territories say that the number of fatalities is 282.

Cars Stoned Near Hebron

TA0111192388 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 1 Nov 88

[Text] Two Israeli vehicles were stoned tonight in the Hebron district. The windshield of one car was smashed by a stone near Al-Zahiriyah. The other car was stoned near Hebron's White Mosque.

'Arab Sources' Report 9 Hurt

TA0211100488 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 2 Nov 88 p 14

[Report by Oren Kohen]

[Text] The blockade on the territories and the curfew imposed yesterday on all Gaza Strip refugee camps continue. The curfew and the blockade, which were imposed because of the elections and the Balfour Declaration anniversary, will continue until 2300 tonight. There will be a general strike in the territories to mark the Balfour Declaration anniversary.

There was also a general strike yesterday, and military sources reported that a Nabulus resident was wounded in the casbah during a stoning incident. According to Arab sources, however, three people were shot and wounded during violent incidents in the West Bank, while six people were wounded in Bayt Hanun, Gaza, and Dayr al-Balah in the Gaza Strip.

They said that the Bayt Hanun casualty was a 12-year-old boy who was shot in the leg and an 18-year-old who was shot in the back. Both were hospitalized in Gaza's Ahali Hospital. They also reported that a 17-year-old was shot in the stomach and a 28-year-old was wounded in the chest in Gaza's Al-Shaja'iyah neighborhood. These two were also hospitalized at Gaza's Ahali Hospital.

In Dayr al-Balah, a 19-year-old was shot and wounded in the back, and another man was hit by a rubber bullet. Official military sources reported that they do not know about the incident and that the IDF is investigating.

Arab sources also reported that aside from the wounded youth in Nabulus, two other people were also wounded in the West Bank—one in the village of Kafr Malik in the Ramallah district and the other from the village of Dhannabah in the Tulkarm district.

The curfew imposed on Nabulus following the firebomb attack on the bus in which the Weiss family was killed is in its 3d day. Arab sources reported that water and electricity supplies in Jericho are erratic.

The kitchen of a house in the village of 'Isawiyah near Jerusalem was totally burned; according to the residents, the fire was caused by a tear gas grenade which landed in the house after village residents threw stones at soldiers.

A soldier was slightly hurt yesterday morning by a stone which penetrated the vehicle in which he was traveling near the Bayt Rimon Junction. The car passengers chased and caught the stonethrower and brought him to the Nazareth police station.

Update on Disturbances 2 Nov

TA0211125988 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1145 GMT 2 Nov 88

[Report by 'Ezra Yanuv]

[Text] A general commercial strike is being staged in Judaea and Samaria today on the occasion of 2 November, the anniversary of the Balfour Declaration. Public transportation is strikebound, and traffic on the roads is sparse.

A Qalqilyah resident who was brought to the Kefar Sava hospital this morning later died of his wounds. An initial IDF investigation into the circumstances of the incident indicates that stones were thrown at an IDF patrol jeep at the exit from Qalqilyah. The soldiers began pursuing the attackers, some of whom wore masks. Two of the stonethrowers escaped into a house on the outskirts of Qalqilyah.

The soldiers followed them into the house, where members of the family that lives there tried to assault an officer and a soldier. A 20-year-old youth tried to snatch the officer's weapon and was shot and wounded. He later died of his wounds in the Kefar Sava hospital.

The dead youth's mother pounced on another soldier and was also wounded. Qalqilyah is now under curfew.

Another incident took place in Hebron, where stones were thrown at an Israeli car. One of its windshields was smashed. The driver of the car pursued the stone throwers and managed to catch one of them.

The blockade imposed on the territories yesterday on the occasion of election day continues, and residents are banned from leaving for Israel. Quiet has been maintained in East Jerusalem so far, with no special incidents or disturbances registered there. A commercial strike is under way there, too. One should note that 2 November is considered a volatile day in the territories and is usually marked by serious disturbances.

The general blockade imposed by the military authorities on the Gaza Strip on Monday evening continues. There is no traffic through the Nahal 'Oz and Erez roadblocks.

A population of about 200,000 people in the eight refugee camps in the Gaza Strip has been subject to a 2-day curfew which began on the eve of election day and may be lifted at the end of the strike in trade and services in the area. The general strike marks the anniversary of the Balfour Declaration.

The population in the Gaza Strip towns is refraining from moving about those streets where businesses are closed. As a result of the preparations by the security forces to stop demonstrators and disturbances on such a day, only small gatherings of people throwing stones and burning tires have been recorded so far.

Gaza residents with whom we spoke by telephone have expressed their concern about the Israeli election results. The residents of the Qatif Bloc settlements in the Gaza Strip did not conceal their joy over the election results.

Rafah Resident Sentenced for 'Terrorist' Activity
TA0111192088 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1830 GMT 1 Nov 88

[Text] The Gaza military court today handed down five life-sentence terms to Subhi Zakut, a 34-year old Rafah resident, who was found guilty of terrorist activity. Zakut was detained last July and charged with planting bombs on Egged buses.

One device exploded on a bus full of passengers, who miraculously escaped unharmed. In another incident, the bus driver was injured.

The implication of the sentence is that Zakut will not be entitled to any form of amnesty.

King Husayn Leaves for Baghdad 'Working Visit'

JN0211103088 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1000 GMT 2 Nov 88

[Text] Amman—His Majesty King Husayn left Amman for Baghdad this morning on a working visit to the Republic of Iraq during which he will hold talks with His Excellency President Saddam Husayn within the framework of consultations and coordination between the two Arab leaders on the new developments in the Arab arena.

His Highness Crown Prince Hasan, the prime minister, the chief of the royal Hashemite court, the court minister, the chief chamberlain, the commander in chief of the Jordanian Armed Forces, the ministers, his majesty's private chamberlain, and a number of civilian and military officials saw his majesty off at Amman airport.

Al-Rifa'i on Israeli Elections, PNC, PLO

JN0111191888 Amman Television Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 1 Nov 88

[Text] Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i has said that if the Likud bloc wins the Israeli elections, and if the new government implements the program it has constantly been talking about—which is that it views the occupied Arab territories as a part of Israel and that the Palestinians living in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip are foreigners residing on Israeli territroy—then this will undoubtedly be a recipe for disaster and there will be no peace process or any chance to negotiate a settlement.

In a statement to REUTER today, the prime minister added: This, however, does not mean that if the Israeli Labor Party wins, there will be peace the next day. But at least, it is ready to accept the basic principle of UN Resolution No 242 which is trading land for peace.

Al- Rifa'i said: It is declaring that the West Bank and Gaza Strip are Palestinian territories occupied by Israel and that the Palestinians living there are a people under occupation. This is a good starting point to move from.

He indicated that Jordan was closely observing the next U.S. presidential elections set for next week, affirming that regardless of who wins, we believe that the Middle East problem should be on the priority list so that the current situation will not be allowed to deteriorate even further.

The prime minister expressed hope that the Soviet Union and the United States will cooperate to solve the Middle East problem as they have cooperated to solve other regional issues in the world over the past few months.

In answer to a question on the next PNC session, the prime minister said: We have been informed that the PNC will declare the Palestinian state and independence according to UN General Assembly Resolution No 181 of 1947, which stipulated partitioning Palestine into two states, one Jewish and the other Arab. After that, they will demand holding an international peace conference.

He added: We hope this position of theirs will gain international acceptance and that there will be a contribution from the Arab and Palestinian sides to push the peace process forward.

Al-Rifa'i described the Aqaba talks as positive. He said the PLO is now responsible for the West Bank and it is now feeling the heavy burden of this responsibility. He added: It does not see us as competitors and there aren't any heard feelings anymore. He added that, during the talks, 'Arafat had expressed desire to establish a confederation between Jordan and the future Palestinian state. But, King Husayn told him that this idea is premature.

Al-Rifa'i said: If we talk of a confederation between two independent states then this contractual agreement should be discussed in its full details after the independent Palestinian state is established. He said that the February 1985 agreement with the PLO was a reply to the Israeli and U.S. stands which rejected the PLO's participation in an international peace conference.

Al-Masri Comments on Israeli Election Results

JN0211125688 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1200 GMT 2 Nov 88

[Randa Habib dispatch from Amman]

[Text] Jordanian Foreign Minister Tahir al-Masri has expressed his conviction that the first victim of the Israeli elections, whose initial results indicate that the Likud is in the lead, will be the march of peace in the region. He said the repercussions of this result will certainly appear in the near future.

In a statement to our radio, Al-Masri said: We hoped the Israeli society would seize the opportunity of the elections to bring about the forces that call for peace, understanding, exchange of land for peace, and recognition of Palestinian rights. He added: We hoped that because the general atmosphere in the world and in the Arab world and that of the Palestinians is very clearly moving in this direction.

The Jordanian minister said the elections were a very suitable opportunity to confirm a new Israeli trend, but the victory of the Likud bloc and the religious parties may secure the establishment of a Shamir-led government which may shatter these hopes.

Al-Masri said the Israeli voter's support for the Likud has authorized Shamir to continue obstructing the peaceful march and using increasing violence and savagery against the uprising. He added, however, that violence will be met by violence, stressing that the uprising will not subside.

Answering a question, Al-Masri considered the emergence of the rightist parties with such power indicates that the Israeli society is being transformed into a puritan religious society that is gradually extricating itself from secularism.

Finally, he expected this trend to have negative repercussions in the long run on life in Israel and perhaps on its relations with other countries, primarily the secular ones.

In another development, King Husayn will hold official talks today with Iraqi President Saddam Husayn shortly after his unexpected arrival in Baghdad.

FRG Foreign Ministry Official Arrives 30 Oct

JN3010212888 Amman Television Service in English 2000 GMT 30 Oct 88

[Text] The West German minister of state at the Foreign Office, Helmut Schaefer, arrived in Amman today for a 5-day visit. Mr Schaefer will hold talks with his majesty the king, Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i, and other senior officials while in Jordan.

Sees King, Prince Hasan

JN3110185488 Amman Television Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 31 Oct 88

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn received Helmut Schaefer, minister of state at the FRG Foreign Ministry, this evening. During the meeting, they discussed the situation in the region in light of recent developments.

The meeting was attended by Royal Hashemite Court Chief Marwan al-Qasim and Foreign Minister Tahir al-Masri. It was also attended by the members of the FRG guest's delegation and the FRG ambassador to Jordan.

His Highness Crown Prince Hasan also received Schaefer this evening. During the meeting, they discussed aspects of cooperation between Jordan and the FRG and ways to promote bilateral relations. The meeting was attended by the members of the FRG minister's delegation and the FRG ambassador to Jordan.

More on Meeting With King

JN3111213288 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 2100 GMT 31 Oct 88

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn received Helmut Schaefer, minister of state at the FRG Foreign Ministry, at Al-Nadwah Palace this evening. The minister conveyed the the greetings and appreciation of the FRG Government for his majesty's continuous efforts for the sake of the region's security and stability.

During the meeting, His Majesty King Hysayn explained to the FRG guest the importance of and the need for Arab meetings and consultations to achieve a just and lasting peace in the Middle East.

His majesty also pointed out that the recent contacts made by some Arab brothers affirm the importance of this trend, which supports achieving a just and lasting peace through the convening of an international conference to be attended by the five permanent Security Council member states and all the concerned parties, including the PLO. The meeting was attended by Royal Hashemite Court Chief Marwan al-Qasim, Foreign Minister Tahir al-Masri, and the FRG ambassador in Amman.

Sees Al-Rifa'i, Al-Masri

JN0111134488 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 1 Nov 88

[Text] Amman—Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i received Helmut Schaefer, minister of state of the FRG Foreign Ministry, at his office this morning. They discussed bilateral relations. The meeting was attended by Foreign Minister Tahir al-Masri and the FRG ambassador in Amman.

Foreign Minister Tahir al-Masri had met with the FRG minister to review developments in the Middle East and to exchange views on the region's issues and ways to find a just and lasting solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict and the Palestine issue through the convening of an international peace conference.

The two ministers also exchanged views on ways to activate Arab-European dialogue and support it in all areas. Al-Masri then appealed to the FRG Government to show tangible interest in the region's issues and to exert efforts with the EEC to pressure Israel to end its inhuman practices in the occupied Arab territories.

King Receives Call From Algerian President

JN3111202888 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 31 Oct 88

[Text] King Husayn this evening received a telephone call from Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid. His majesty reassured himself on the security situation in fraternal Algeria and conveyed his wishes of success to his excellency in the serious work he is undertaking for the well-being and prosperity of the fraternal Algerian people. The two leaders exchanged points of view on the new developments in both the Arab and international arenas.

Labor Minister Returns From Visit to India
JN2910155888 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic 1440 GMT 29 Oct 88

[Excerpt] Amman, 29 Oct (PETRA)—Labor Minister Marwan Dudin returned to Amman this morning following a working visit to India to promote and consolidate relations between the two friendly countries, particularly in the field of labor and workers.

Dudin told the Jordanian news agency that he signed with his Indian counterpart a memorandum of understanding dealing with organizing the employment of Indian workers in the Kingdom so any Indian worker can only be employed with the knowledge of the Jordanian Ministry of Labor and the Indian competent authorities according to the jobs needed by the Jordanian market. [passage omitted]

AL-RA'Y on 'Arafat's Concept of Democracy
JN2710150288 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 27 Oct 88 pp 22, 16

["From the present" column by Ibrahim Abu Nab: "A Tactic or a Loss?"]

[Text] During his recent visit to Baghdad through Rabat, Cairo, and Aqaba, Yasir 'Arafat suggested the convening of an emergency Arab summit in Baghdad to achieve reconciliation in Lebanon and solve the Lebanese crisis. What is behind this? And what is 'Arafat's plan, which he said at the beginning of his tour would change the Middle East map?

Let us read his thoughts and plans through his recent statement to the correspondent of the Lebanese AL-SAYYAD magazine, our colleague Huda al-Husayni. In this statement, there are many things that attract the attention of observers and prompt them to pose many questions. One of these, for instance, is 'Arafat's concept of democracy.

When the AL-SAYYAD correspondent told him that some Palestinian officials, especially from Fatah, had puzzled us, with one saying the Palestinian state will be established next year, another saying it will be established after 4 years, and a third saying the state is coming. Is this a tactic or a loss?

'Arafat answered: "These are personal judgments. The final decision is made by the official spokesman, that is me. All other statements are mere personal views. We are democrats. Everyone has the right to say his opinion. This is the Palestinian democracy, and these are its features."

When the AL-SAYYAD correspondent asked him whether he had previous knowledge of the recent Bassam Abu Sharif article and Abu Iyad's [Salah Khalaf] statements, he said: "I have never prevented anyone from expressing his opinion. I may disagree with him, but I do not interfere. I follow Voltaire's saying: I may disagree with you, but I am ready to fight in defense of your freedom of expression."

If this is 'Arafat's concept of democracy, then we are very lucky. It probably explains our confusion, and the rest of his plan to change the map of the Middle East through words and democracy. Undoubtedly, this democracy is unique in the world; nothing resembles it.

In a democratic state, everyone has the right to express his opinion as he wishes provided that this does not contradict with the right of others to express their views and interests. The rights of expression must be organized, because chaos in expression may negatively affect the freedom of expression, rendering it a tool for disseminating injustice rather than justice.

However, members of one administration, whether a government, an organization, a party, or a company, should not be allowed to express, in the name of democracy, separate views without commitment to a general policy. If things had been like this, then democracy would have been ruined, and the task of the leader, instead of being the reflection of the best views of the community, would have been to say something and leave scientists, wisemen, and poets to interpret it, as if he never makes mistakes.

There is a difference between people expressing their opinions freely and the party or government administration seeking guidance from what the public unanimously agrees upon, and having this administration becoming a theocracy, from which the opinion comes from above as a revelation and employees interpret it.

Probably the idea that the PLO's leadership had about democracy was behind the failure of the Palestinian information efforts and the presence in Cyprus of scores of publications, calling themselves "magazines", which have nothing to do with journalism or the profession of discovering truth.

Some of the editors in chief of these magazines are suspected unidentified persons, who distribute titles of treachery and espionage against anyone who tries to see things with his own eyes and think. Such a large number of publications only confuse the Palestinian and Arab mind and distort the concepts. We will see some of their tragi-comic forms in the rest of the talk.

Al-Huss Comments on Israeli Election Results

NC0211125388 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 2 Nov 88

[Text] In his first comment on the results of the Israeli election, which are not yet final, Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss said:

Israel's strategy toward Lebanon and the region is the same whether the rightist Likud bloc or the leftist Labor Party wins.

Al-Huss added: To us it is the same whether the Labor Party or the Likud bloc wins the Israeli election. We are sure that Israel's strategy toward Lebanon and the region is the same, even though one party's methods may differ from those of the other.

The danger threatening the future of Lebanon and the Arabs stems from the basic Zionist thinking which aims at dividing Lebanon and the Arabs.

Prime Minister al-Huss said: There are many indications of this sort of thinking, which arises from the Zionist belief that dismembering the Arab peoples around Israel, beginning with Lebanon, constitutes a strategic Israeli requirement.

Al-Huss Cabinet Meets; Islamic Grouping 'Attacked'

NC0211122988 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 2 Nov 88

[Text] The cabinet met at Government House this morning. The consultations currently taking place at the local, Arab, and international levels were discussed at the meeting.

Although the topic was on the agenda, the cabinet reached no decision regarding the reorganization of the military brigades.

Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss chaired the meeting, which was attended by Deputy Prime Minister Dr 'Abdallah al-Rasi and Ministers 'Adil 'Usayran, Nabih Birri, and Walid Junblatt.

The meeting ended at 1215. The first to come out was Prime Minister al-Huss.

He was followed by Minister Junblatt, who made a statement in which he strongly attacked the Islamic Grouping.

Junblatt assailed those who are wagering on Army Commander General Michel 'Awn, particularly in West Beirut. He attacked the members of the Islamic Grouping, saying they are in the pay of 'Awn and take their orders from him. Minister Junblatt also said that a new national commander should be appointed for the Army.

'Awn Says Aime's Visit 'Shrouded in Secrecy'

NC0111153988 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1445 GMT 1 Nov 88

[Excerpt] Jean-Claude Aime, assistant UN under secretary general, concluded his meeting in Beirut a short while ago with a meeting with Prime Minister General Michel 'Awn.

He earlier met with former Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss, former Speaker Husayn al-Husayni, and Ambassador Faruq Abu al-Lam', Foreign Ministry secretary general.

The UN envoy did not comment on the results of his mission. Gen 'Awn said that Aime's visit will be shrouded in secrecy. He added that it is a very good visit, satisfactory, and in the interest of Lebanon and its problem.

Faruq Abu al-Lam' said that Aime is on an exploratory mission in Lebanon and that he will go to Damascus and from there to Geneva to brief the UN secretary general on the results of his visit. [passage omitted]

Aime Leaves for Damascus

NC0211082588 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0800 GMT 2 Nov 88

[Text] Jean-Claude Aime, assistant UN under secretary general, left Beirut for Damascus at 0915 today on board a special UN aircraft. He is scheduled to hold talks in Damascus today on the Lebanese situation.

Aime held exploratory talks in Beirut yesterday with Speaker Husayn al-Husayni, Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss, and Army Commander General Michel 'Awn.

Mikha'il Dahir Cited on Presidential Candidacy

PM0111141888 London AL-MAJALLAH in Arabic 26 Oct-1 Nov 88 p 11

[Interview with Deputy Mikha'il Dahir by Ibrahim 'Awad . Al-Qubayyat, northern Lebanon; date not given]

[Text] ['Awad] How do you explain the rejection by a Lebanese group of your presidential candidacy after your name was put forward as a result of a Syrian-U.S agreement?

[Dahir] I must first point out that the Syrian-U.S. agreement to nominate me came only after investigations, studies, and meetings. They reviewed my program

and visualization of a solution to the Lebanese crisis, which I drew up and gave copies of to the press and all those concerned with the Lebanese crisis.

That program was not produced overnight. It was the result of a comprehensive review of all records of the Lebanese crisis since it began in 1975.

I was eager to collect and keep files on military events as well as local, Arab, international meetings, in addition to solution plans proposed by Lebanese, Arabs, and foreign parties.

I did so in order to draw up that visualization in my capacity as a Lebanese deputy, and because it is my duty to do my best to serve and salvage my homeland.

I did not seek the presidency of the Republic. Nor did I visit Europe or knock on doors hoping to become president. Those who proposed—and I stress proposed—my name did so only after they were convinced of my visualization, and after they found that I was the right man to stop the hemorrhage of the homeland and restore its health.

[`Awad] Did you not visit Syria or meet with Richard Murphy?

[Dahir] I visited Syria once 5 months ago and submitted my visualization of a solution to the officials there.

As for Murphy, I have never seen or met with him. As things stand, I can say I do not know him.

[`Awad] What is your comment on the description by Military Government head General `Awn, the Lebanese Forces, and certain deputies in the eastern area [of Beirut] that you are a president of the Republic appointed by Syria and the United States?

[Dahir] This is an unacceptable and erroneous claim: erroneous because after our failure to elect a president of the Republic on 18 August we asked the Arab and foreign states to help us hold elections on another date within the constitutional term.

We rushed to the Vatican, Europe, as well as some Arab and foreign states, urging them to intervene to restore the Syrian-U.S. dialogue over the Lebanese question.

Those who rejected me said that former president Sulayman Franjiyah's withdrawal from the battle was sufficient to complete the quorum and complement the elections. They considered President Franjiyah, for whom I have every respect, a candidate of confrontation. They wanted a candidate of accord.

Then U.S. envoy Richard Murphy came to Damascus and joined Syrian officials in searching for a solution to the presidential election. The two parties agreed to propose the name of Mikha'il Dahir as a candidate of accord after President Franjiyah's withdrawal.

When the U.S. envoy moved to Beirut and informed the rejectionists of the results of the Syrian-U.S. talks, they responded to the proposal with convulsive reactions and intransigence, and unleashed their anger at the envoy. The rest of the story is known. But their claims are unacceptable because the deputy is free to elect whomever he wants.

I recall here that I was one of those who boycotted the session to elect former president Ilyas Sarkis. I did so willingly with 26 deputies. They did not pressure me, nor did I pressure them. We insisted on supporting Raymond Iddih.

[`Awad] The Lebanese Forces say you signed in Damascus an agreement similar to the tripartite agreement signed by [Druze leader] Walid Junblatt, [Amal leader] Nabih Birri, and Elie Hubayqah (former Lebanese Forces leader).

[Dahir] I did not sign anything; nor did I promise anything other than to work toward implementing the solution plan I drew up.

[`Awad] Did you not brief the Lebanese Forces on that plan?

[Dahir] Lebanese Forces Deputy Commander Karim Paqraduni came and discussed the plan with me. He said that he had a completely different impression of me and that my plan deserved attention and consideration.

He raised a few questions, some of which concerned the fate of the militias in the event of my election as president. He also broached other issues that I cannot reveal because it is a matter of trust.

[`Awn] Do you believe you will be able to salvage Lebanon if you are elected president? What would be your first step?

[Dahir] I feel that I am capable of achieving national salvation. My first job would be to form a government, dissolve the militias, prevent the entry of illegal arms, take over ports, open the crossing points, and unite the country.

We must first guarantee citizens their security and safety. After that we can deal with political reforms, build a strong state, and secure justice for all citizens. A just state is a sound state.

Mufti Shaykh Hasan Khalid Interviewed
PM3110104888 London AL-HAWADITH in Arabic 28 Oct 88 pp 19-20

[Interview with Mufti Shaykh Hasan Khalid by Ahmad Zayn; place, date not given]

[Excerpts] AL-HAWADITH: There has been much talk recently about the possibility of a spiritual summit or meeting being held. Does Your Eminence believe that the spiritual leaders could do something toward resolving the Lebanese crisis in the present situation?

Khalid: A spiritual summit may be held at any time so long as circumstances and public interest prompt this. The spiritual leaders have proved at this stage that they are good at handling and understanding the Lebanese crisis. They made endeavors to iron out obstacles in order to reach a solution.

They differ from the political leaders in one aspect, namely, the fact that they do not engage in political action just at any time, under any conditions, or on any occasion. They do not use it as a means for personal gains.

Thus, what is expected from spiritual leaders is more beneficial and effective in achieving the objective. Despite this, namely, the trait of shunning material gains, we are not saying that the spiritual leaders can today achieve the objective sought as quickly as possible in isolation from the participation of political leaders. [passage omitted]

Present conditions prompt spiritual leaders to meet. But we would like to emphasize that a meeting of those leaders and their sincere efforts alone cannot guarantee, as I said, a complete solution to the crisis.

When conditions require that we meet, and when such conditions enable us to adopt an effective position and fruitful resolutions, we will be ready to do so.

AL-HAWADITH: Are we to understand this as a call for convening a spiritual summit pending conditions that would guarantee its success?

Khalid: We would not say it is a call. The fact is that we are calling upon those who are playing a role in finding solutions to this crisis to prepare the conditions and atmosphere that would then help us speak both effectively and influentially. [passage omitted]

AL-HAWADITH: It is noted that most, if not all, spiritual Islamic leaders, except for yourself, make visits to Damascus and meet with senior officials there. Why has Mufti Khalid not visited Damascus for such a long time?

Khalid: Such talk lacks evidence and is repudiated by the facts, as we were the first to open the road to Damascus. Our visits to and meetings with President Hafiz al-Asad, Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, and many other Syrian leaders, whether in Lebanon or Syria, refute this.

But if we have not visited Damascus recently, the reason is that there are those who can carry out the task better than we can. There was then no need for us to make such visits. But we will make visits when there is a need for us to do so.

Thank God, our relations are at a high level and our contacts are continuing. And we maintain clear coordination with official quarters in Syria.

AL-HAWADITH: Your Eminence adopts a clear and open stand regarding the security situation in Beirut. How do you assess the present security situation in Beirut?

Khalid: Undoubtedly the security situation in Beirut today is not bad. In fact it is much better than it was a year ago. Some people might say that incidents do occur in certain places, but this cannot be avoided. Such things take place not only here but outside Lebanon as well. [passage omitted]

AL-HAWADITH: It has been noted that the question of "partition and settlement" is being raised once again. Your Eminence, do you expect these attempts to succeed under the present situation in Lebanon?

Khalid: There is much talk these days among politicians and leaders, and this is probably prompted by the clear reality we are experiencing today. There are two areas, namely, the eastern area and the western area [of Beirut] —and some people regard this as a phenomenon of partition.

Undoubtedly this sounds like partition. The presence of barriers gives rise to such a concept. But do you not agree that the rulers and most administrative and organizational quarters do belong to unified bodies and derive their decisions and orders from a unified authority?

I am among those who say that the issue of barriers is undoubtedly serious and could lead us to something we already fear, that is, partition. But I do not believe that what we are witnessing now is partition. And we should not allow the situation to remain as it is.

We must do our best to prevent partition and return the homeland to its true position. I am among those who believe that the partition issue is something promoted by those who wish Lebanon no good and are seeking to keep it as it is, damage its position, and create a state of chaos so that its people will not live in peace and security. Among these is Israel.

It hurts Israel to see Lebanon independent or living in peace or under Islamic-Christian coexistence. That is why Israel is using every means to encourage partition. This is, of course, in addition to certain individuals who have enjoyed and benefited from present troubles, boosting their fame, power, and financial assets.

It pleases them that Lebanon remain as it is and it pleases them that they be able to play a role that would help Israel achieve its objectives.

That is why I believe that such a goal is difficult to achieve, because it is against the interests of the Lebanese and the region. It is also against the interests of political action. [passage omitted]

Egypt Trying To Halt Israeli 'Military Plan'

NC0211094088 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0745 GMT 2 Nov 88

[Text] Quoting Egyptian sources, Saudi press reports today say Egypt over the last few days has made intensive contacts with the United States and some European countries to stop a new Israeli military plan for Lebanon.

According to these sources, Egypt told the countries concerned that the Israeli plan will be implemented after the Israeli elections and only a few days before the PNC session.

The sources add Israel has lately increased its reconnaissance air missions over Al-Biqa', reinforced its troops in the South, and supplied the South Lebanese Army with arms, ammunition, and new military equipment in preparation for the implementation of the Israeli action.

Further on Operations by Israeli Forces

Flares Fired Over Yuhmur

NC0111182588 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 1 Nov 88

[Text] Israeli occupation forces fired flares over the town of Yuhmur in the Al-Shaqif area from their positions in Qal'at al-Shaqif this evening.

In another development, security information received from the South indicates that the occupation forces, in a surprise move, fenced 'Aytarun plain today in preparation for annexing it to the occupied territories.

2 Killed in Raids; 17 Wounded

NC0111200788 Paris AFP in English 1926 GMT 1 Nov 88

[Excerpts] Al-Miyah Wa Miyah, Lebanon, Nov 1 (AFP)—Israeli war planes Tuesday again pounded targets around this Palestinian refugee camp in south Lebanon, killing at least two people and wounding 17 others, Palestinian sources said.

The jets destroyed three positions held by Fatah, the mainstream group of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), located east of the southern port of Sidon, some 40 kilometers (25 miles) from Beirut.

The planes hit one building near the Al-Miyah Wa Miyah refugee camp and two others inside the compound, correspondents said. The structures collapsed on their occupants, killing two and injuring 17, according to Fatah.

Among those killed, Fatah said, was a PLO military leader, Abu Tawfiq. [passage omitted]

A simultaneous air strike by six jets aimed at positions held by another group, the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command at 'Aramun, 15 kilometers (eight miles) from Beirut.

Israeli planes also struck facilities maintained by the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine at Al-Na'mah. But neither Palestinian group mentioned casualties in their accounts. [passage omitted]

Warplanes Break Sound Barrier

NC0211112888 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1115 GMT 2 Nov 88

[Text] Israeli warplanes broke the sound barrier approximately 20 minutes ago while flying in Lebanese airspace.

Syrian Sergeant Killed in Clash With Gunmen

NC0111150988 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1445 GMT 1 Nov 88

[Text] A clash took place this afternoon in the Al-Khandaq al-Ghamiq area in West Beirut between Syrian occupation soldiers and Hizballah gunmen when Syrian soldiers raided the house of a Hizballah member. A Syrian sergeant was killed and another was wounded in the clash. The Syrians immediately imposed a security cordon on the area.

Amal Movement Ranks on 'General Alert' in South

NC0211071188 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0445 GMT 2 Nov 88

[Text] The ranks of the Amal Movement in the South are on general alert, especially in Tyre. All yesterday the movement set up additional checkpoints on the roads, particularly on the approaches to Tyre, and conducted a thorough search of cars and pedestrians.

These measures come in the wake of Amal Movement leader Nabih Birri's accusation in Al-Nabatiyah last Sunday that Hizballah leaders had given orders for three Amal officials to be killed and in the wake of Hizballah's strong response to Birri.

Locust Attack Expected Mid-December
NC3110130288 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1215 GMT 31 Oct 88

[Text] It is as though Lebanon did not have enough political and economic problems without having to confront locusts.

Sami Qarunful, the Lebanese ambassador in Morocco, has informed the Foreign Ministry of the conclusions of the international conference on combating locusts, which ended in Fes last Saturday.

The conferees made a number of important recommendations at regional and international levels.

The experts expect Lebanon to be attacked by large concentrations of locusts approaching from the South in the coming few months.

The (Privas) Foundation expects the locust attacks to begin in mid-December and to cover the entire country, before moving northward to Turkey and Greece during February 1989. Locust concentrations are expected to multiply in Lebanon until August 1989.

The conferees called for urgent international action, within the framework of the FAO, and for the formation of an international force to combat locusts. They also said that the affected countries should be provided with the necessary pesticides and protective materials.

Security Organs Apprehend 'Terrorist' Gang

JN0111205288 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 2020 GMT 1 Nov 88

[Louis Faris dispatch from Damascus carried within the "Panorama" program]

[Text] The official SYRIAN ARAB NEWS AGENCY, SANA, has revealed that Syrian security organs have apprehended a big terrorist criminal gang that carries out large-scale kidnapping and blackmail operations, deals with forged checks, and performs other criminal actions.

The gang includes elements from various nationalities. The activities of this gang covered many countries, such as England, Spain, Belgium, Switzerland, Greece, France, and others. Investigations are continuing to uncover all the activities of this gang.

Gen Talas Arrives in Moscow on 'Official Visit'

JN2910214088 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 2115 GMT 29 Oct 88

[Text] Moscow—General Mustafa Talas, deputy commander in chief of the Army and the Armed Forces, deputy prime minister, and defense minister, arrived in Moscow this evening leading a delegation on an official visit to the USSR lasting several days.

Gen Talas and the delegation were received at the airport by Army General Dmitriy Yazov, USSR minister of defense; Marshal Sergey Akhromeyev, chief of the USSR General Staff of the Armed Forces; and other senior military commanders.

Talks With Defense Minister

JN0111075888 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0515 GMT 1 Nov 88

[Text] Moscow—Soviet Defense Minister Dmitriy Yazov received General Mustafa Talas, deputy commander in chief of the Army and Armed Forces, deputy prime minister, and defense minister, and members of the military delegation accompanying him last night.

A session of talks was held between the two sides during which they discussed means of promoting relations of friendship between the armed forces in both countries and of reinforcing the Syrian Armed Forces' defensive capability.

Cyprus' Vasos Lissaridhis Arrives With Delegation

JN3010215588 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 2115 GMT 30 Oct 88

[Excerpt] Cypriot House of Representatives President Vasos Lissaridhis and his delegation arrived in Damascus today on a visit of several days to Syria.

He was received at Damascus International Airport by People's Assembly Speaker 'Abd al-Qadir Qaddurah, several People's Assembly members, and the Cypriot ambassador in Damascus. [passage omitted]

Sees Al-Ahmar, Qaddurah

JN3110172888 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 31 Oct 88

[Text] Damascus—Comrade 'Abdallah al-Ahmar, assistant secretary general of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, received Dr Vasos Lissaridhis, president of the Cypriot House of Representatives, head of the Unified Democratic Union of Cyprus the EDEK, and the accompanying delegation, at noon today.

The meeting was attended by Comrade Shakir al-Sa'id head of the Arab and Foreign Affairs Committee in the People's Assembly, and the Cypriot ambassador in Damascus. Talks centered on the developed relations between the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party and the EDEK and relations between the two friendly countries, Syria and Cyprus.

Talks also centered on developments in the Arab and Cypriot arenas and the joint struggle against the imperialist schemes which target the region and hamper the struggle of its poeple for their independence and development.

Comrade al-Ahmar affirmed Syria's continued principled stand under the leadership of Brother Struggler Hafiz al-Asad, secretary general of the party and president of the Republic, on the main developments and issues which concern the region—especially what is happening in Lebanon.

This stand includes helping the fraternal Lebanese people rid themselves of the abnormal situation in which they are living, not allowing the partition conspiracy to achieve its goals, and supporting the nationalist Lebanese to preserve Lebanon's freedom, Arab identity, and unity.

Comrade al-Ahmar also affirmed Syria's stand on supporting the Palestinian Arab People's uprising in the occupied territories in confronting the Zionist occupiers and retrieving the usurped rights of the Palestinian people.

He also affirmed Syria's support for the Cypriot people in their struggle for unity, implementation of United Nations resolutions on this issue, and withdrawal of foreign bases from Cypriot territory.

On his part, Dr. Lissaridhis praised Syria's stand in facing the imperialistic and Zionist schemes in the region and its struggle under the leadership of Comrade President Hafiz al-Asad.

He affirmed the continuation of joint action between his country and Syria to promote bilateral relations in various fields and strengthen cooperation relations between the Socialist Arab Ba'th Party and the EDEK.

People's Assembly Speaker 'Abd al-Qadir Qaddurah this morning also received Cypriot House of Representatives President Vasos Lissaridhis and the accompanying delegation, with Shakir al-Sa'id, head of the Arab and Foreign Affairs Committee in the People's Assembly attending. The People's Assembly speaker praised the

close bilateral relations which bind the two friendly countries, Syria and Cyprus, and the path of liberation and struggle taken by the two countries in this important and decisive region of the world.

Qaddurah reviewed in his speech the current situation in the region and the events, conspiracies, aggressive schemes, and stands resulting from this situation.

He referred specifically to our people's uprising in Palestine, the occupied Arab territories, the Golan, and southern Lebanon. He affirmed our people's determination, under the wise and brave leadership of President al-Asad, to continue their struggle for liberation regardless of the price and sacrifices until the aims of our nation are achieved—total liberation and the comprehensive socialist structure.

On his part, Lissaridhis expressed pleasure over this visit and the great hospitality and reception he had received. He said: Syria played and is still playing an honorable basic and positive role in all the developments witnessed by this region. This role is manifested in Syria's struggle and brave stands, which, in turn, are manifested in the personality of the struggler President Hafiz al-Asad whose friendship we all highly honor and from whose courage we all learn. We highly appreciate what Syria is offering to our Cypriot people under his leadership, such as solidarity with their just cause.

Visits Prime Minister

JN0111142688 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 1 Nov 88

[Text] Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi received at 1000 today Dr Vasos Lissaridhis, president of the Cypriot House of Representatives and head of the Unified Democratic Union of Cyprus—the EDEK—and his delegation. The meeting was attended by Shakir al-Sa'id, head of the Arab and Foreign Affairs Committee in the People's Assembly.

After welcoming Dr Lissaridhis, the prime minister explained to him the general situation in Syria and the great progress in the country under the historic leadership of struggling President Hafiz al-Asad, especially in the fields of development and construction. He also explained the economic situation and the government's policy and inclinations toward firming and promoting the economic base in Syria.

The prime minister also explained the government's concern about agriculture and its development and talked about the great local resources available in various forms.

The prime minister reviewed the major achievements of Syria and its comprehensive renaissance under the leadership of President Hafiz al-Asad. He stressed the depth of Syrian-Cypriot relations and the need for promoting and developing them in the interests of the two friendly peoples and countries.

Dr Lissaridhis expressed gratitude for the welcome he and the accompanying delegation were accorded. He praised the boom and progress achieved in Syria and stressed the relations of friendship and cooperation between the two countries and the need for developing them, especially in the economic and trade fields in the interests of the two friendly countries and peoples.

Confers With Al-Shar'

JN0111201088 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1915 GMT 1 Nov 88

[Text] Damascus—Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' received Dr Vasos Lissaridhis, president of the Cypriot House of Representatives, and his delegation this evening. The meeting was attended by (Shakir Is'id), chairman of the Arab and international affairs department at the People's Assembly, and the Cypriot ambassador in Damascus. 'Abd al-Fattah 'Ammurah, the Syrian charge d'affaires in Cyprus, also attended.

Talks centered on bilateral relations and means of promoting them in various domains. The current situation in the region was also reviewed.

Burkina Faso's Foreign Minister Arrives 1 Nov

JN0111143688 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 1 Nov 88

[Text] Burkinabe External Relations Minister Jean Marc Palm arrived in Damascus at noon today. He was received at Damascus International Airport by Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' and the directors of the African and Protocol Departments at the Foreign Ministry.

In a statement to SANA, he said: The aim of my visit is to see a friendly country with which we stand in one trench to defend our rights. There is constant cooperation between our country and Syria to activate and support the Arab-African cooperation. Syria, he said, attended the last meeting on Arab-African cooperation, and will attend the next meeting scheduled for next month. He concluded by saying: We came to Damascus with full hope that Syria supports us in our African issues.

Visits Al-Shar'

JN0111155888 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1457 GMT 1 Nov 88

[Text] Damascus, 1 Nov (SANA)—Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' received Burkinabe External Relations Minister Jean Marc Palm here today. They discussed bilateral relations and ways to promote them in the various areas as well as Arab-African cooperation and the current situation in the region.

Meets With Vice President

JN0211152888 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1432 GMT 2 Nov 88

[Text] Damascus, 2 Nov (SANA)—Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam today received Burkinabe Foreign Minister Jean Marc Palm. The meeting dealt with the latest developments in the region, Arab-African cooperation, and relations between the two friendly countries.

AL-BA'TH Cites Fadlallah on Issues

PM0211111688 Damascus AL-BA'TH in Arabic 26 Oct 88 p8

[Report on interview with Scholar Shaykh Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah by Mitri al-Hamis in Beirut; date not given]

[Excerpts] Scholar Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah has declared that Saddam has a hostility complex against any elements that possess leadership abilities and that his actions are based on this insane complex, because he just cannot accept the fact that Syria is playing a vanguard role on the Arab political scene or confronting major challenges with similar challenges.

Fadlallah also condemns the concessions Saddam has made to one international bloc or the other at the expense of the Arab nation and its just causes. [passage omitted]

Scholar Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah began his interview with Al-BA'TH by talking about the ugly attitudes of the Iraqi regime and its support for Zionist forces in Lebanon.

He said: If we study the mentality of the Iraqi political regime, we will find that there is no regime, but rather one person that is trying to establish a system for his personal ambitions, which center on a single idea, namely, to contol the political situation in the Arab countries under the Arab nation's major political slogans. [passage omitted]

From our examination of the nature of that regime and the war it sparked off as a result of a personal complex and agentry to international imperialist forces worldwide—which was aimed at exhausting the Arab and Islamic nation and has brought nothing but destruction—it is understandable that the regime has opened up to elements linked both politically and militarily to Israel merely to give vent to its complex toward Syria by striving to establish a foothold in Lebanon so it can work with the 'Arafatist line against the vanguard Syrian Arab role in Lebanon. [passage omitted]

Question: What is your comment on the Saddam regime's war of annihilation and use of chemical weapons against the Iraqi people?

Answer: Before the end of the war I told Iraqi mujahidin—both Muslim and non-Muslims—that they must make moves in two directions: the Iraq-Iran war, which is forced on the Islamic republic, and in particular the Iraqi question, which concerns a regime that is persecuting its people. This is because the Saddam regime began the process of annihilation before the Iraq-Iran war.

We follow the Iraqi question and we know that the regime has murdered Islamic elements, nationalists, and even comrades within the regime itself. With regard to the method of persecution that the regime applies in Iraqi prisons, no regime in the world as brutal—not even the South Africa regime.

He added: Therefore I have said, and continue to say, to all my brothers active in the Iraqi arena that they must work to establish the Iraqi problem as the problem of a people persecuted by their own regime. The same applies to the annihilation of the sons of northern Iraq. The annihilation campaign against them is nothing new.

Perhaps the use of chemical weapons is new. But Saddam began the process of annihilation against all the uprisings that have erupted during his era. He has ensured that the sons of northern Iraq emigrate from their area to other areas.

That is why we believe that the new method, which has made the world public aware of the brutal Iraqi regime, will constitute a prelude to the fall of that regime.

Shaykh Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah added: From my examination of international conditions, I believe that the countdown for the fall of that oppressor has begun. [passage omitted]

Question: How do you view these crude contradictions: While supporting Israel's tools in the eastern area of Beirut, the Iraqi regime continues to plot against the national resistance in the South and the uprising in occupied Palestine?

Answer: This is no surprise to me, because I am aware that the Iraqi regime is not faithful to any of the major issues of the Arab nation, which it thinks it represents.

That is why it is obvious that the regime will work to abort any resistance and liberation movements, simply because when they achieve victory they will not allow a regime such as Iraq's to remain in the Arab arena.

Question: Do you expect an escalation in resistance action in the South?

Answer: We can say that the Islamic and national resistance is considering it. It is working on the basis of continuing the confrontation with Israel in order to thwart the security plans by which Israel is trying to turn South Lebanon into a security belt of its own.

First, we are working to ensure the collapse of the security belt theory. Second, we are also working to ensure that the blows of the uprising coincide with the blows of the mujahidin in South Lebanon and on other fronts.

Afghanistan

2 Soviet SS-1 Missiles Arrive in Kabul 1 Nov

BK0111131488 Hong Kong AFP in English 1252 GMT 1 Nov 88

[Text] Islamabad, Nov 1 (AFP)—Two Soviet-made SS-1 missiles arrived in the Afghan capital Kabul on Tuesday and were taken to a military base in the city centre, diplomatic sources said.

The surface-to-surface missiles, carried by special trucks and under heavy guard, were transported from the direction of Kabul airport, the sources said.

The convoy, which passed the U.S. Embassy to Kabul, snarled traffic as it entered the city, they, added.

The missiles, which have a range of around 150 kilometres (95 miles), were taken to a Soviet military base in the city centre, the sources said.

'Western Embassy' Officer Cited

OW0111151888 Tokyo KYODO in English 1458 GMT 1 Nov 88

[Text] Islamabad, Nov. 1 KYODO—Soviet SS-1 missiles were sighted Tuesday in Kabul by an officer of a Western Embassy in neighboring Afghanistan, Western diplomatic sources here said.

The officer, whose name and embassy affiliation were not disclosed, reportedly saw two SS-1 missiles mounted on MAZ-543 transporter-erector-launchers, being ferried through Kabul toward the Soviet 40th Army Headquarters in Darulaman in the southern part of the Afghan capital.

Moscow confirmed Monday that advanced military equipment had been sent to Afghanistan in view of the growing pressure of the Afghan mujahidin on major cities such as Kabul and Qandahar.

Anti-communist Afghan resistance sources and Western diplomats also said last week that 30 sophisticated MiG-27 aircraft were deployed at the Shindand Airport in Farah Province to attack rocket positons of Afghan rebels.

General Staff Chief's Statement

LD0111165088 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 1 Nov 88

["Statement" by chief of the General Staff of the Afghan Armed Forces; date not given]

[Text] Dear compatriots: Several thousands of the armed extremist opposition were previously warned to refrain from using long-range rockets and heavy weaponry against civilians and residential areas.

However, it is evident that they have not taken these warnings seriously, and, at the instigation of their Pakistani backers, they have accelerated the killing of our innocent people.

As it has been said in the statements of various official sources of Afghanistan, the Armed Forces have recently been equipped with new modern weapons, including new long-range and greatly effective rockets to abort the subversive acts of the extremists, to wage an effective campaign against the extremist armed groups, to strengthen the Armed Forces, to protect our independence and territorial integrity, and to prevent interference from abroad.

The Armed Forces of Afghanistan will test these weapons this evening. Compatriots and the residents of Kabul are being informed about it.

'Extremists' Attack Kabul With Rockets

LD0111212488 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 1 Nov 88

[Text] BAKHTAR's military section, quoting authoritative sources in the Armed Forces, reports the Armed Forces have inflicted crushing blows on the U.S. and Pakistani-supported warmonger extremist forces in various parts of the country over the past 24 hours and have destroyed several of their hideouts. Six extremists were crushed and two others were wounded in Seyyed Karam District of Paktia Province.

As a result of blows inflicted by the Armed Forces at the center of Baghlan, five extremists were crushed and several of their hideouts were destroyed.

According to another report, four extremist elements were crushed in (Karwanda) and Towr Ghar in Sorkh Rud District of Nangarhar Province and 1 Pakistani adviser was wounded as a result of the Armed Forces' action.

As a result of actions by the Armed Forces, six extremists were crushed in Shindand and Enjil Districts of Herat. Some of their arms and ammunition were destroyed.

A total of 12 people including their ringleader (Nik Muhammad) were crushed in Dahama-e Ghori District, Baghlan Province. As a result of this operation two DShK's, three machine guns, two rocket launchers, six light weapons, one box of antipersonnel mines, seven hand-grenades, and two motor vehicles were captured.

According to another report, clashes between the warmonger groups have intensified recently and have led to armed bloody conflagrations among the bellegerent groups in various parts of the country. For instance, five people were killed and seven others were wounded in Shakar District of Kabul Province on 26 October.

Recently, an ammunition convoy belonging to the extremist group of Gulbuddin, heading toward Sholgara District in Balkh Province, came under attack from the Nasr extremist group in the area of Bamian. As a result, four of the convoy's guards were killed and the arms were captured by the hostile group.

Yet another report says that a 30-man group associated with the extremist band of Malawi Muhammad Nabi was attacked by the Nasr extremists on its way to Balkh.

BAKHTAR reports that in an interview with the BBC at 0730 this morning, a leader of the extremists said: The mujahidin have great experience and their shells only hit the enemy's headquarters. I mean that no shells have hit a civilian target recently.

Only 1 hour after the transmission of the interview, at about 0830, the criminal extremists fired nine rockets at Districts 4, 9, and 10 of Kabul city.

As a result of the explosion of three rockets at Qala-e Khater in Bibi Mahro, Shahrara, and Qala-e Zaman Khan, a 3-year-old child was killed in Qala-e Khater and 11 other children were wounded.

The houses of two of our compatriots were destroyed. Also, four of our compatriots were martyred in Nangarhar and Khowst and six others wounded. The rockets caused material damage as well.

Our compatriots affirm that these rocket always land on residential areas, resulting in the martyrdom of tens of children, women, and elderly people in various parts of Kabul city.

It must be said that when the extremists say the enemy headquarters they mean residential areas, schools, and nurseries.

Operations on Kabul-Jalalabad Road Detailed

BK0111163488 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 1 Nov 88

[Text] In Afghanistan, mujahidin are reported to have captured two military garrisons, one each in Nangarhar and Qandahar Provinces and shot down at least four warplanes and a gunship during the last 4 days.

An agency report speaks of fierce fighting for the control of Kabul-Jalalabad highway for the last 3 days with the Soviet-backed Kabul regime Air Force carrying out intense and indiscriminate bombing raids. The casualties are reported to be heavy.

According to the agency, the fighting followed the destruction of four Kabul regime military posts and four bridges on Kabul-Jalalabad highway. The mujahidin also attacked the Jalalabad military air base and the Army Command Headquarters yesterday, causing heavy losses.

The mujahidin conducted a joint attack on Landi Khyber garrison on Sunday [30 October] and captured it along with 40 Kabul troops. They also captured Kajaki garrison.

In addition, mujahidin shot down four Kabul regime jet aircraft, one each daily, during last 4 days in Landi Khyber, Kajaki area, Herat city, and Chaghcharan area.

Soviet Planes Launch Air Strikes on Qandahar

BK0111113688 Hong Kong AFP in English 1112 GMT 1 Nov 88

[Text] Islamabad, Nov 1 (AFP)—Newly arrived Soviet MiG-27 planes have heavily bombed rebel positions around the besieged southern Afghanistan city of Qandahar, Western diplomats and Afghan resistance sources said here Tuesday.

Resistance sources said in two days of "carpet bombing" last week, mujahidin rebels suffered heavy losses. They gave no figures.

The diplomats, confirming that MiG-27 aircraft recently moved into western Shindand Air Base from the Soviet Union, said they were being heavily used in the Kabul regime's effort "to stem the mujahidin advance" in the area.

The rebel sources said the planes were targeting mujahidin positions around the airport as some 5,000 guerrillas had massed in an attempt to capture the second biggest Afghan city.

The bombing started in a change of tactics two days after rebels blew up an ammunition dump with rockets at Keshlay Jadid, five kilometres (two miles) from the city on October 20, the sources said.

Explosions at the main dump of the Afghan Army's 11 Corps continued to rock the area for two days, causing extensive damage and unspecified casualties, the diplomats said.

The rebel sources said the planes carried out high altitude bombing of Arghandab, Mahalajat and Panjwai near the city, besides the airport suburbs of Tor Kotal, Taj Mohammed Karez, Murghan Kecha, Shorandab and Reg.

The resistance sources said the attacks were also aimed at recapturing Spin Buldak garrison near Pakistan's border and Takhta Pul near Qandahar. Both fell to the mujahidin last month.

The diplomats here said mujahidin rocket attacks on the airport destroyed three helicopters last week, while a transport plane crashed soon after take off. Fighting was also reported in the outskirts of Qandahar and the road linking it with Kabul remained blocked at several places, they said.

They said there were unconfirmed reports that General Nurul Haq Ulumi, commander of the 11 Corps, was either killed or replaced.

The state-run Radio Kabul monitored here said another district commander, Brigadier General Sayyed Ghani, died Monday after being wounded in a rebel attack in Qandahar six days ago.

Meanwhile resistance sources said an important mountain garrison at Kajaki in nearby Helmand Province fell to the mujahidin Friday.

Fighting for the capture of Kajaki, located on the hills overlooking the vital Shindand-Qandahar highway, had been going on for several months.

The sources said the district capital fell when 70 government soldiers surrendered after heavy fighting in which they said 90 Afghan troops were killed and 145 wounded. Another 27 were captured before they could flee, they said. The rebels did not give their losses.

The mujahidin claimed to have captured 14 military vehicles, 11 large cannon, three mortars, two 122-mm guns, five heavy machine-guns, more than 200 Kalashnikov assault rifles and a large quantity of ammunition.

The rebel sources said the garrison was an important capture for the mujahidin, who can now interdict convoys moving on the Qandahar-Shindand highway.

Government Forces Step Up Defense of Nangarhar
BK0211040188 Hong Kong AFP in English 0348 GMT 2 Nov 88

[By Pratap Chakravarty]

[Text] Jalalabad, Afghanistan, Nov 2 (AFP)—The Afghan Government is stepping up its defense of strategic Nangarhar Province as mujahidin rocket attacks continue and the two sides fight for control of a key highway to Kabul.

Some 10,000 Afghan troops withdrawn less than three weeks ago have been sent back to the region bordering Pakistan to bring the number of troops to around 18,000, provincial military commander General Ghulam Azad said here.

The troops are supported by ill-trained militiamen and often call on local members of the ruling People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan (PDPA) to repulse rebel attacks, launched mainly from across the border, he said.

Heavily armed convoys have begun moving out of this provincial capital to ensure control over the 150-kilometer (90-mile) road to Kabul after fierce weekend clashes in which the Army recaptured outposts taken by the rebels.

Gen. Azad said some 70 rebels and eight soldiers had died in the three-day battle, which he described as one of the biggest his troops had fought with the U.S.-and Pakistani-armed mujahidin in recent times.

Large amounts of arms and ammunition have been flown in this week in the cover of darkness as the rebels continue to pound the city, districts and towns from across the border and a dozen points around the province.

"We have (often) defied them (rebels) to come for direct combats but so far they have only attacked civilian targets," Gen. Azad said.

Some 36 people were reported killed and 43 injured in rocket attacks on this city a fortnight ago. Last week, three civilians died and 20 were admitted to the city's two hospitals with shrapnel wounds received in similar raids.

At least four rockets fired by the mujahidin rained into Jalalabad Monday [31 October], eyewitnesses said, though no casualties were immediately reported.

In another incident Monday, two men were seriously injured, one losing both his legs, in a landmine blast in Achin District near the border.

The extent of the continuing danger from rebel attacks was apparent during the nerve-wracking 40-minute flight that took a group of Western journalists here from Kabul Sunday.

The Soviet Antonov plane, loaded with weapons and explosives, took off with its lights doused to spoil the aim of rebels armed with Stinger anti-aircraft missiles and virtually nose-dived onto the dark Jalalabad runway.

"We have to fly like this, at least twice daily, to avoid the rockets," an Afghan Air Force pilot said, as red tracer-bullets arched across the airstrip amid the sound of machinegun fire.

The fear of an all-out attack by the rebels persists in Jalalabad and the city is guarded by troops day and night.

Jalalabad and Nangarhar Province are vital to the Soviet-backed Afghan Government, officials here said.

If the area falls to the rebels, it could become the largest single transfer point for arms being shipped to the mujahidin from Pakistan and could cost the PDPA heavily in political prestige, they said.

Gen. Azad denied reports Konarha District had fallen to the mujahidin and that troops had withdrawn last month under rebel pressure.

The Afghan garrison here, filled mostly with conscripts, relies on PDPA activists during major operations against the rebels, Gen. Azad said.

"There are some 13,000 PDPA members in Jalalabad and we often send partymen to help out the Army," said Sarfros Moman, secretary of the party's Jalalabad chapter. "We cooperate with the Army in fighting our enemy," he added.

Foreign Ministry Summons Iranian Charge

LD0111201288 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 1 Nov 88

[Text] The Foreign Affairs Ministry reports that this afternoon the Iranian charge d'affaires in Kabul was summoned to the ministry and a protest note was handed over to him by the Second Political Directorate.

According to reliable sources, Iran's Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati recently met with members of the so-called Afghanistan Alliance in Tehran.

During the meeting 'Ali Akbar Velayati encouraged the extremist armed groups to continue the war and bloodshed and armed operations in Afghanistan. This was published by the Iranian media.

This action by the Iranian foreign affairs minister completely contravenes the UN Charter, the Nonaligned Movement's principles, the Islamic Conference Organization's principals, and accepted international norms.

This is regarded as blatant interference by Iran in Afghanistan's internal affairs.

Those actions are being undertaken at a time when international support is increasing for Afghanistan's peaceful measures. The work of the nonaligned foreign ministers conference in Nicosia and the spirit of the 43d UN General Assembly session have clearly shown that since the introduction of the national reconciliation policy and the signing the Geneva agreements, a new atmosphere and spirit exists, demonstrating the international community's deep support of and solidarity with Afghanistan.

The 43d UN General Assembly [UNGA] session welcomed the signing of the Geneva agreements and Afghanistan's and the USSR's honest observance of them. The 43d UNGA session encouraged the parties concerned to fulfill their obligations under the Geneva agreements, the implementation of which is a great factor in ensuring lasting peace in Afghanistan and the region.

The letter asserts that Iran's actions will only exacerbate the situation and cause a deterioration in bilateral relations.

Foreign Minister Wakil Reports to Milli Shura

LD0111234788 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 1 Nov 88

[Text] Afghan Foreign Minister 'Abul Wakil took part in the joint session of the international relations commission of the Milli Shura this morning.

He presented a report on the bases and the major stages of Afghan foreign policy under the circumstances of the implementation of the Geneva accords.

In particular, he reported on the role of UNGOMAP [UN Good Offices Mission in Afghanistan and Pakistan] and the handing over of protest notes by the liaison office of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, recent efforts of the so-called transitional government for international recognition, and the proposals and specific steps taken by the Republic of Afghanistan to overcome the present situation. 'Abdul Wakil also answered questions.

His report says in part: One open and blatant violation of the Geneva accords which does not require any investigation to establish as true is the formation of the so-called transitional government of the opposition in the territory of Pakistan.

This group has so far not even gained the confidence of the opposition groups, let alone receiving international prestige and recognition.

It is pertinent to quote the recent statement of Sigbatullah Mujadeddi, one of the leaders of the Alliance of Seven, in support of the above points.

He said: The mujahidin government was formed on condition that it would be introduced to the Jirgah and would receive a vote of confidence from this organ. However, this government has neither been introduced to any jirgah nor has anybody given it a vote of confidence.

Those in charge of various organizations and the military commanders have said: If no council is formed by October and if no election is held, we will automatically regard this government as dissolved. The first half of October is now gone and no one has given a vote of confidence to this government.

In addition, the so-called transitional government has not yet been recognized by any country, not even its supporters, Pakistan and the United States.

It must be said that according to available information, despite this group's extended activities and broad contacts in consultation and cooperation with Pakistan and the United States and with political representatives of various countries, the overwhelming majority of countries believe that the creation of a new government outside the territory of Afghanistan is an open violation of the Geneva accords, inconsistent with international tradition, and therefore cannot even be discussed.

They believe this so-called transitional government only represents one of the factions of the opposition forces and is being formed in a foreign territory against the existing legal government in Afghanistan, an active member of the United Nations Organization and the Nonaligned Movement. Recognition of this transitional government is, in fact, interference in the internal affairs of the Republic of Afghanistan.

Some countries also think that the invitation to recognize this so-called transitional government cannot even be seen as the representing the view of all representatives in the coalition where, as usual, no unity exists, let alone the general consensus of the Afghan people.

It is surprising that Pakistan allows the activities of such a government, which has no voice and no citizenship and which has no legal basis, to take place in its territory.

It is even more surprising that the United States, after the conclusion of the Geneva accords, has appointed a man named M. William [name as heard] as its representative in Pakistan so that he, in close cooperation with the so-called freedom fighters, can coordinate the criminal and subversive activities by the Armed Afghan extremists entrenched in the territory of Pakistan, gain recognition for this government, and report periodically to the U.S. Administration.

As stated by the official U.S. authorities, Mr William will spend most of his time consulting with the chieftains of the extremist Afghan opposition groups in Peshawar.

The report goes on to say: As you know, the Geneva accords envisioned a particular mechanism of control whereby reports of (?violations) of the provisions or clauses of the accords can be handed over as notes to UNGOMAP [UN Good Offices Mission in Afghanistan and Pakistan] which was set up for this purpose in the area.

Therefore, in accordance with the Geneva accords, we have no other means except this mechanism to convey our protests. For this reason, it is necessary to assess the activities of UNGOMAP in this respect:

In our opinion the work of this mission is not yet effective. However, we must remember that the Pakistan side, by resorting to various pretexts, has disrupted the work of this mission. Despite this, most of the violations, even with the existence of obstacles and in the absence of protest notes from the Republic of Afghanistan, can be investigated by UNGOMAP and a report can be prepared.

For example, is not the existence of offices and activities of the extremist groups and the formation of the so-called transitional government in the territory of Pakistan a blatant violation of the Geneva accords? And has the office of the UNGOMAP remained silent in order to expose it?

Pakistan cannot say that the extremists do not have bases and offices in its territory. Pakistan cannot say that the chieftains of the Alliance of Seven are not present in its country, that they have no offices or files, and they do not operate there.

Pakistan cannot say that the so-called transitional government of the extremist groups has not been declared in the territory of Pakistan or that the formation of this government is not an interference in the internal affairs of Afghanistan.

We have conveyed our concerns in various meetings with UN officials. It is our opinion that the delivery of notes shows on one hand, the continuation of efforts and struggle by legal means to end such violations, and on the other, to draw the attention of the UN secretary general to the circumstances of the implementation of the accords and to determine who is responsible for the continuation of the war.

Moreover, specifying the violations by Pakistan and repeated contact with UNGOMAP is a way to enlighten world and regional public opinion in order to determine who is the aggressor, the interventionist, and who is guilty of breaking its own agreement.

In addition to submitting notes, the Republic of Afghanistan has also sent timely and explanatory notes and messages to the UN secretary general, the leaders of the Nonaligned Movement, and other credible and legal organizations concerning Pakistan's violations of the Geneva accords.

Within various messages including the recent message by Esteemed Najibullah, the president of Afghanistan, conveyed by Esteemed Dr Muhammad Hasan Sharq to the UN secretary general, his excellency's attention was drawn to the fact that as a result of repeated violations by Pakistan of the Geneva accords, the situation in our region, particularly in the Republic of Afghanistan, has become quite tense, critical, and complicated. The implementation of these accords has been confronted with serious crisis.

We have told the UN secretary general that the present situation requires his direct and immediate intervention. It has also been pointed out to him that this situation is intolerable for the Republic of Afghanistan. Moreover, according to reports the Soviet Union is also unhappy with the situation and has been put into a difficult position.

Furthermore, violations of the Geneva accords by Pakistan have seriously damaged the new approach for the solution of regional conflicts.

The end of the report states that we hope the future leaders of two of the countries who are signatories of the Geneva accords, that is, Pakistan and the United States, will give a positive reply to the peace-seeking demands of the Republic of Afghanistan after their forthcoming elections.

We hope they will play a constructive role by refraining from interfering in the internal affairs of Afghanistan, end the war and fratricide in Afghanistan, improve relations between the two Muslim and neighboring countries, as well as consolidate peace and stability in the region and in the world.

Former King Interviewed on Future Government

PM0211104088 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 29 Oct 88 p 3

[Interview with former King Muhammad Zahir Shah by Zaki Musa in Rome "early last week"]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] [Musa] You recently received an invitation from the Kabul government urging you to return to the country. Will you respond to that wish?

[Zahir Shah] I have responded to that invitation via the press. But briefly, the problem does not involve participation in ruling. It has to do with reaching a sound and just solution that satisfies most of the Afghan people.

Issues such as these are not personal matters that can be discussed by two people or more. The Afghan Government must be legitimate and legal. It must represent all sectors of the Afghan people.

[Musa] Does the idea of this step on the Afghan Government's part reflect anything new in the issue?

[Zahir Shah] The initiative is not new. They have taken similar initiatives on several occasions. But probably this time it is being announced more openly. [passage omitted]

[Musa] How do you view the military pressure caused by the offensives launched recently by the mujahidin forces on the capital Kabul?

[Zahir Shah] Military and political attitudes toward the situation in Afghanistan must be understood and studied together as a unit. Although we actually believe that the military resistance is effective, strong, and being maintained everywhere in the country—because it constitutes a very important factor, as it controls more than 80 percent of the liberated territory and exerts constant pressure on the major cities, including the capital Kabul—the political future of the present initiative makes it imperative that all the parties concerned ensure the emergence of a legitimate government representing the true aspirations of the majority of the Afghan people. No government, particularly in a country like ours, can work effectively unless it enjoys the support of the Afghan people.

[Musa] Is there any solution to this question, bearing in mind that the present regime in the country insists on staying in power and the mujahidin insist on continuing the holy war?

[Zahir Shah] As I have always said, the issue is not participation in power but, rather, ensuring a legitimate government acceptable to the majority of the people.

For this reason we must concentrate our efforts on influencing the course of events in order to achieve that objective.

[Musa] Opinion polls conducted among Afghan refugees in Pakistan show they are in favor of your return to power. Are you ready to respond to this wish?

[Zahir Shah] I have always dedicated myself to serving the Afghan people, setting no conditions and seeking no personal gain. In my capacity as a Muslim and a patriotic Afghan, I shall play my role and convey this message to the Afghan people. [passage omitted]

[Musa] Have the Soviets and the Americans made any contacts with you regarding a solution to the Afghan crisis, or discussed your return to power?

[Zahir Shah] In view of the strategic importance of the Afghan problem it is logical that the problem be handled not only at a local level, but a regional and international level as well.

As for my contacts with countries, organizations, or individuals, I do not believe it is right to make any comment on the matter. I hope you will excuse me for not answering this question.

[Musa] How do you assess the Geneva accords signed recently on resolving the Afghan crisis?

[Zahir Shah] After the Geneva accords were signed a new situation emerged. Taking various local, regional, and international factors into account, one can see that there is some confusion in understanding the matter.

I believe that this stage is a sensitive one and the parties concerned, whether governments or organizations, must abide by the UN resolution of 18 November 1981, which stipulates that the basic rights of the Afghan people, including their right to self-determination, must be respected.

Thus a transitional government backed by the majority of the people, together with stability and security, are essential factors in ensuring the return of millions of refugees in order to rebuild our country, which has been destroyed by long years of war and tragedies.

[Musa] Do you believe the Soviets are serious about their withdrawal from the country? What is the future of relations between your country and the Soviets in view of what has happened?

[Zahir Shah] It seems that since the Geneva agreement the Soviet Union has pledged itself to the political resolution stipulating its Armed Forces' withdrawal from Afghanistan.

However, actually a major issue still remains, namely, finding a political solution and a method that will lead to the formation of a government genuinely representing the Afghan people.

In view of our geographical position and national interests, I believe that any future government will take into account our traditional policy of nonalignment and good-neighborly relations with all countries of the region, including the Soviet Union. Obviously, this will be based on mutual respect and noninterference in the internal affairs of others.

[Musa] What is the nature of your contacts with the mujahidin groups?

[Zahir Shah] Contacts have always been maintained with the various Afghan groups to search for a just solution to the Afghan problem.

We attach great importance to coordination, because it is a fundamental factor in our present and future action. [passage omitted]

India

Gandhi To Discuss Borders During PRC Visit

BK0211083488 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 2 Nov 88

[Text] The Sino-Indian border dispute will be discussed during the visit of the prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, to China in the 3d week of December. The external affairs minister, Mr P.V. Narasimha Rao, told the Rajya Sabha today that the border question has not been satisfied. [sentence as heard]

He said there is no change in the attitude of China regarding its claims on India's vast territories, including Arunachal Pradesh. Details of Mr Gandhi's visit are now being worked out, he added. The minister told the house the Chinese Government has stated that they attach importance to their relations with India.

17 Killed, 60 Injured in 3 Bomb Explosions

BK0111125888 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 1 Nov 88

[Text] Seventeen persons were killed and over sixty injured in three separate bomb blasts in Pathankot town and a nearby village in Jammu and Kashmir this afternoon. Of this 11 were killed in an explosion in a J and K [Jammu and Kashmir] State Road Transport Corporation bus near Lakhanpur about 5 kilometers from the Punjab border, while six were killed in a blast in Pathankot.

An eyewitness told our Jammu correspondent that the bus was aflame after the explosion at Magarkhad rivulet and some of the passengers were burnt alive inside. Army and policemen extinguished the fire with the help of fire tenders. Eight of the injured are in a serious condition. The police has launched investigation into the cause of the bomb explosion which official sources feel is the handiwork of the terrorists.

Two other explosions took place in Pathankot town of Gurdaspur District. Six persons were killed when a bomb exploded inside a clinic near Gandhi Chowk. In the second bomb blast in the town five persons were seriously injured.

Police on 'Maximum Alert'

BK0211032388 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 2 Nov 88

[Text] Police in Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, and the Union Territory of Chandigarh have been put on maximum alert following yesterday's bomb blast in a bus near Lakhanpur and Pathankot town. Security has been tightened all along the Punjab-Jammu and Kashmir border. Additional security forces have also been provided to the night bus services.

The death toll in the bomb explosion in the bus has now gone up to 12, with one more passenger succumbing to burn injuries late last night. The seriously injured passengers have been shifted to the Jammu army hospital and the others to Samba and Kathua District hospitals.

The Jammu and Kashmir government has announced an immediate ex gratia payment of 5,000 rupees each to the next of kin of those killed and 1,000 rupees to those injured.

The National Conference, the BJP, and the Panther's Party have given a call for a Jammu bundh [strike] today in protest against the killing of innocent persons in bomb blasts by the terrorists.

Strike Called in Jammu, Punjab

BK0211070288 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 2 Nov 88

[Text] Jammu is observing a bundh [strike] today to condemn the killing of 12 passengers in a bomb blast in a bus yesterday at Lakhanpur. Most of the shops and business establishments are closed. Public transport is off the road and students have boycotted classes.

However, government offices are functioning as usual. The National Conference, the BJP, the Panther's Party, and some other organizations have given the call for the bundh.

The commissioner for Jammu division told our correspondent that the Jammu and Kashmir and Punjab police are coordinating their investigation into the simultaneous bomb blasts by terrorists in Pathankot and Lakhanpur yesterday. The blasts claimed 19 lives and injured about 60 others. Security all along the border between the two states has also been tightened.

Pathankot town of Punjab is also observing a bundh today to protest against yesterday's bomb blasts. Almost all shops and business establishments are closed. The police is patrolling the town to prevent untoward incidents.

Maldives President Gayoom Postpones Visit

BK0111093488 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 1 Nov 88

[Text] The visit of the Maldives president, Mr Maumoon Abdul Gayoom, to India has been postponed. Mr Gayoom was scheduled to arrive in New Delhi tonight.

'Hyperplane Project' Gets Favorable Review

BK2810150688 Delhi PATRIOT in English 19 Oct 88 p 5

[Text] India is likely to go ahead with the multi-million rupee "Hyperplane Project" following its favourable review by the Department of Space and the Defense Research Development Organisation, reports PTI.

The "Hyperplane" will take off from an airport, put a satellite in orbit and return for a horizontal landing in less than 80 minutes. It will not require launchpads and can be reused.

The only aerospace plane of its kind, it will use air-breathing engines for ascent and cryogenic rocket engine for accelerating to orbit.

The liquid oxygen fuel will be produced in flight from the atmospheric air, a concept which will allow launching of heavy payloads at less than one-tenth of the current launch costs with conventional rockets.

Described as a "single-stage-to-orbit" launch vehicle, the "Hyperplane" has been designed by a team led by Air Commodore R. Gopalaswami, technical director, Bharat Dynamics Ltd. Other team members include Dr S. Gollakota, Dr P. Venugopalan, Dr M. Nagarathnam and Dr Sivathanu Pillai of the Defense Research Development Laboratory (DRDL) Hyderabad.

Work on "Hyperplane" began three years ago and its design was unveiled for the first time at the recent Bangalore Conference of International Astronautical Federation (IAF).

Cdre Gopalaswami says the "Hyperplane" will be built at a cost of Rs 50,000 million spread over 10 years, with the first demonstration flight scheduled for 1997.

A patent for on-flight air-liquefaction system has been applied for and work has begun on a two tonne prototype. Eleven Indian research laboratories with expertise in aerospace plane have been identified for further work on the project.

According to Cdre Gopalaswami the work on "Hyperplane" has reached "conceptual definition and design" stage. This is to be followed by detailed engineering design.

It will revolutionise international space programmes because of its low launch cost. For instance, it can orbit three times more payload than the British "Hotol", which is twice as heavy as the "Hyperplane", Cdre Gopalaswami says

"Hotol", which is under development by the British Rolls-Royce Company, uses on-flight air collection only to a limited extent, and the American Aerospace Plane X-30 does not consider air collection at all.

India's "Hyperplane" is the only vehicle that incorporates air breathing engines and air collection technology, he says.

USSR To Launch Remote Sensing Satellite in 1991

BK0211131088 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 2 Nov 88

[Text] An agreement was signed in New Delhi today between India and the Soviet Union for the launch of the second remote sensing satellite of India with the Soviet rocket carrier.

The launch is slated for 1991 and will be carried out from Baykonur cosmodrome in the Soviet Union. The agreement was signed by the chairman of the Space Commission, Professor U.R. Rao, and the president of the Soviet agency Litsenzintorg, Dr V.V. Ignatov.

14th TV Transmitter Inaugurated in Gujarat

BK2910114488 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 29 Oct 88

[Text] The union minister of state for finance, Mr B.K. Gadhvi, yesterday inaugurated a low power TV transmitter at Godra in Panch Mahal District of Gujarat. This is the 14th such transmitter in the state.

Iran

Students Rally on Embassy Seizure Anniversary

LD0211114788 Tehran IRNA in English 1035 GMT 2 Oct 88

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 2, IRNA—A rally was held here Wednesday morning on the anniversary of the occupation of the compounds of U.S. Embassy in Tehran by Muslim students following the imam's line on November 4 in 1979.

The demonstrations were held two days earlier than the actual anniversary of the embassy's seizure, since this year November 4 will fall on Friday which has its regular Friday congregational ceremonies at Tehran University.

Thousand of students, teachers, educators and masses participated in the rally which started from the Tehran University and led to the former U.S. Embassy in Central Tehran where an 8-point resolution was read.

The Majlis this week declared November 4th, the seizure of the embassy, as the day marking the "Campaign Against Global Arrogance."

The demonstrators led by a group of ulema and Majlis deputy carried portraits of Imam Khomeyni and Ayatollah Hoseyn 'Ali Montazeri chanting "Death to America", as well as similar slogans against Britain, the USSR and the Zionist regime.

They also set fire to an effigy of Uncle Sam and the star-spangled banner in front of the former embassy compounds which since its seizure in 1979 has been commonly known in Persian as "Jassous-Khaneh", or "Laneh Jassoussi" meaning "Den of Spies".

The resolution stated that the blood of revolutionary Iranians shed in the prisons of the former pro-U.S. regime of shah has not been forgotten. It also said that the U.S. policies, its blockage of Iranian assets and its political pressure against Iran in international circles will never be forgotten.

With the same nation, it added, the war of the Baghdad regime against Iran launched with backing of the U.S. Administration, which resulted in martyrdom of thousands of the revolutionary youth of Iran will be remembered.

The Iranian nation has not forgotten, the U.S. attack on Iranian ships and passenger plane, massacre of Iranian pilgrims in holy Mecca and martyrdom of the oppressed in Lebanon, Vietnam, the Philippines, Palestine and other parts of the world, said the resolution.

It also stressed that one of the main principles of the Islamic revolution of Iran is its uncompromising stance towards the U.S. and constant struggle against U.S. imperialism. Ignoring of this principle would mean "burying the revolution," it added

The resolution once again pledged allegiance to Imam Khomeyni and said that the Islamic revolution of Iran will continue on the course set by the imam.

It further stressed that the U.S. is the number one enemy of Iran and of all the oppressed nations. It pledged support for the liberation movements of the world, the struggle of Hezbollah in Lebanon and Palestine.

It pointed out that anti-U.S. struggle will not be possible in the absence of an internal unity and that unity is achieved by public consciousness and reliance on forces which tread the path of the imam. Anti-U.S. struggle is not separate from the struggle against the American brand of Islam.

Some pieces of an Iranian passenger plane, shot down by the U.S. Navy in the Persian Gulf on July 3 were also put on display.

Addressing the gathering, a member of the Islamic Associations Union of Iranian Universities outlined the crimes committed by the U.S. against the oppressed peoples of the world.

2 Attaches Leave Turkey After Kidnap Plan Foiled

NC2810153988 Paris AFP in English 1520 GMT 28 Oct 88

[Text] Ankara, Oct 28 (AFP)—Two Iranian officials arrested in Erzincan, eastern Turkey, for trying to kidnap an Iranian engineer said to be a political refugee returned to Iran Friday, press reports said.

The two men—Rasul Baqer Sha'iyan and Hamidreza Karimi—were attaches at the Iranian Embassy here, according to the ANATOLIA news agency.

Four other Iranians held in connection with the foiled kidnapping will stand trial before a state security court in Istanbul, the agency added.

The six men were apprehended in two diplomatic cars Sunday trying to smuggle Sa'id Abu Hasan, a member of the "People's Mujahedin" opposition group, from Turkey into Iran hidden in the boot (trunk) of an Iranian Embassy car.

Eleven people, including an Iranian family, were involved in the kidnap attempt, according to a spokesman for the Foreign Ministry. He did not elaborate.

The kidnapping was discovered after a petrol (gasoline) pump attendant reported "seeing something moving" which the men were trying to hide in one of the cars.

Foreign Ministry Assails Israeli Raids on Lebanon

LD0211153188 Tehran IRNA in English 1520 GMT 2 Nov 88

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 2, IRNA—The Foreign Ministry today strongly lashed out at Zionist air raids on southern Lebanon and said the crimes of the Al-Quds [Jerusalem] usurping regime betray its failure to suppress the defenceless Lebanese and Palestinian masses.

The statement called for concerted global reaction against the illicit Zionist regime and urged free nations, world bodies and liberation movements to voice their clear-cut support for oppressed Lebanese and Palestinian Muslims.

The attacks are intended to intensify the Lebanese crisis and further the Zionist dream of dividing up that country, it added.

Zionist warplanes renewed attacks on Palestinian refugee camps in southern Lebanon Tuesday, and followed it with another air raid Wednesday morning.

Perez de Cuellar Presides Over Geneva Talks

LD0111172688 Tehran IRNA in English 1537 GMT 1 Nov 88

[Text] Geneva, Nov. 1, IRNA—Foreign ministers of Iran and Iraq began their first face-to-face talks in the latest round of peace negotiations under United Nations supervision Tuesday.

U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar and his team of mediators were first to arrive at 15:33 hours at the Salle de Conseil, the international negotiating chamber of the U.N.'s European headquarters.

He was followed two minutes later by Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati of Iran and, simultaneously, Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz of Iraq and their team of advisers.

The talks are expected to center on the question of withdrawal of troops to the international border and the clearing of the Arvand River, two issues raised separately by Baghdad and Tehran.

The Islamic Republic has condemned Iraq's sovereignty claim over the Arvand River and the clearing of the waterway as irrelevant and outside the framework of the U.N. Security Council Resolution 598.

"It becomes illegitimate and dangerous when this (Arvand River) turns into a precondition and an obstacle to impede implementation of the withdrawal to the internationally recognized boundries demanded by Resolution 598...," Velayati stressed in a statement Monday.

Talks in New York and Geneva in the past 10 weeks were bogged down because of the Iraqi demands.

Observers have noted that Perez de Cuellar is now in a stronger position since he received backing from the Security Council for his four-point plan to implement the main points of Resolution 598.

The plan calls for withdrawal of troops to internationally recognized boundries prior to the settlement of other mutual issues.

'Face-to-Face' Talks Held

LD0111213188 Tehran IRNA in English 2108 GMT 1 Nov 88

[Text] Geneva, Nov. 1, IRNA—Foreign ministers of Iran and Iraq have agreed with their United Nations mediator Tuesday to hold face-to-face talks all during the present round of peace talks.

"(It is a) very good signal, an expression of their interest in moving forward and very very quickly," U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar said.

Meanwhile Iran's Foreign Minister Dr 'Ali Akbar Velayati said the secretary general's plan which mainly calls for the withdrawal of troops as the next step in settling the eight year old war was now on the agenda.

Speaking after nearly four and half hours of talks with the two foreign ministers Perez de Cuellar said the decision to only hold plenary discussions showed the "sense of urgency" felt by all sides.

The talks have been deadlocked because of Iraq procrastinations. They began August 25th. "We all feel that something has to be done soon. That's why I thought it was important to raise as much as possible the level and frequency of the meetings," he told waiting reporters at the Palais des Nations.

He said during a break during Tuesday's talks he had seen "with pleasure the foreign ministers close to each other but unfortunately not talking together."

Negotiations will resume at 4 o'clock in the afternoon local time Wednesday.

Perez de Cuellar did not indicate whether the positions of either side had become closer after Tuesday's talks. It was too early to say he said.

Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati told reporters on his way out that the secretary general's four-point plan to implement the main point of Resolution 598 was "now on the table."

"The secretary general and the Security Council have underlined the urgency of the withdrawal of the forces in order to consolidate the ceasefire," he said.

The plan calls for withdrawal of troops to internationally recognized borders, exchange of prisoners of war and settlement of mutual issues such as the Arvand River.

But Iraq's attempt to reverse the order by insisting namely on clearing the waterway at the head of the Persian Gulf has been a major obstacle in the negotiations.

"Tomorrow we will continue our talks. We do hope that we could reach a positive conclusion," Velayati said, without elaborating. His Iraqi counterpart Tariq 'Aziz who left first did not make any comment.

The U.N. secretary general said he hoped to reach a major agreement on the implementation of Resolution 598 before he left Geneva at the end of the week and both sides "know very well that I intend not to go back to New York empty handed."

But he said in any case his representative Jan Eliasson would take over in his place. Eliasson, Sweden's ambassador to the U.N., has been the U.N.'s chief negotiator at the talks after the secretary general.

Positions on POW's Differ

LD0211134188 Tehran IRNA in English 1320 GMT 2 Nov 88

["Iraq Calls for Immediate Release of POW's, Iran Says Withdrawal of Troops More Urgent"—IRNA headline]

[Text] Geneva, Nov. 2, IRNA—Iraq's Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz Wednesday called on the president of the International Committee of the Red Cross [ICRC] to urge the immediate repatriation of prisoners of war held by Iran and Iraq.

But the Islamic Republic rejected the move, calling it outside the articles of Security Council Resolution 598 and the United Nations secretary general's plan to implement it.

"We would like the whole international community to help and urge the Iranians to abide by the (Geneva) international convention and to start the release and repatriation of the POW's as soon as possible," 'Aziz said.

The Iraqi foreign minister told reporters after his meeting with ICRC President Cornelius Sommargua that he had asked for greater pressure to be put on Iran to accept the immediate release of the POW's who number tens of thousands.

He accused the Islamic Republic of "abusing" the POW issue to "gain political concession" at the Geneva peace negotiations.

Iran's Foreign Ministry spokesman said Iran did not object to the repatriation of the POW's but the withdrawal of forces to international borders was of greater importance.

"At a time when there is the threat of resumption of active war, the most urgent issue is the withdrawl of forces in order to strengthen the ceasefire," Morteza Sarmadi told IRNA.

"The release of POW's is part and parcel of Resolution 598 and the secretary general's four-point plan. If Iraq accepts the order of the resolution and the plan, we will see the POW's home very soon."

The repatriation of war prisoners is called for under Article 3 of the Resolution. Perez de Cuellar's plan which has yet to be formally accepted by Baghdad gives priority to the withdrawal of forces.

Sarmadi said the secretary general and the Security Council agree that the consolidation of the ceasefire by the pull back of forces was necessary to reduce the threat of renewed confrontation.

Talks between Iranian and Iraqi foreign ministers at the presence of Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar are due to begin at 4 pm local time at the United Nations European Headquarters herre.

At their meeting Tuesday both sides agreed to only hold plenary talks to speed up the negotiations which have been deadlocked because of Iraq's insistance on issues considered outside Resolution 598.

Complete sovereignty over the Arvand River at the head of the Persian Gulf and the clearing of the waterway have been among Iraq's primary demands.

Iran has insisted that the waterway issue was settled in the 1975 treaty between the two countries. It specified the middle of the river as the border line and evisaged a joint committee to dredge the waterway.

Majlis Speaker on Vigilance, Military Unity

LD0211070388 Tehran IRNA in English 0656 GMT 2 Nov 88

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 2, IRNA—Majlis Speaker Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani Tuesday said the Islamic Republic should continue to look out for aggression from the outside.

Hashemi-Rafsanani who was speaking at a meeting with visiting commanders and personnel of the missile units of the Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps (IRGC), said the IRGC should build up its capacity during the peace-time and learn from its past fighting experience.

The Majlis speaker who is also acting commander-in-chief of the Armed Forces again advised unity between the regular army and the IRGC in Iran.

UK Position on 'Terrorist' Publicity Assailed

LD3111204088 Tehran IRNA in English 1548 GMT 31 Oct 88

["U.K. Hypocrisy in Banning 'Terrorist' Publicity"—IRNA headline]

[Text] London, Oct. 31, IRNA—BBC World Service has offered its assurance that despite restrictions it will endeavor to give "balanced" reports on Northern Ireland but is unwilling to consider similar bans on "terrorists" elsewhere. One of the clearest examples of unbalanced reporting in recent years has been the amount of publicity the British media has given to such terrorist groups as the Iranian hypocrites the Monafeqin-e Khalq (MKO) [pejorative reference to Mojahedin-e Khalq].

Propaganda for the Iranian terrorist grouplet started in 1980 during its indiscriminate bombing campaign that killed thousands of Iranian civilians and has continued unabated since, despite ithe fact the MKO has no suport inside the country and is based in Ba'thist Iraq.

The Indian commerce minister Dinesh Singh currently in London is understood to have already demanded a publicity ban on Sikh extremists similar to the measure imposed by the British government on groups it regards as terrorists in Belfast but has received a curt reply.

A number of other non-aligned countries such as Kenya, Romania and Czechoslovakia are also known to have questioned the Thatcher government's decision and asked why should the BBC still insist in promoting terrorists in other countries.

The traditional excuse that BBC World Service is an independent organisation is considered as total hypocrisy in view of the ban on Northern Ireland reporting, and from the fact that it is uniquely funded by the Foreign Office, and has Minister Timothy Eggar responsible for its affairs, it is widely seen as the government's mouthpiece.

A report by the Institute for European Defense and Strategic Studies concluded last year that terror gangs throughout the world were being "helped by Western hypocrisy" who looked at the aims of groups rather than the criminal acts committed.

UK To Double Credit to Iraq Over Lords' Protest

LD0111210288 Tehran IRNA in English 1616 GMT 1 Nov 88

[Text] London, Nov. 1, IRNA—The Trade Department has said that Minister Tony Newton is to proceed with his visit to Baghdad to discuss new lines of credit despite protests from the House of Lords upper parliamentary chamber.

Remonstrations were led Monday by Lord Cledwyn, leader of Labour peers, who protested that the minister of trade, who is also a member of Prime Minister Thatcher's cabinet, was going to offer fresh loans to Iraq at a time it is discredited by its use of chemical weapons.

A spokesman for the Trade Department told IRNA Tuesday that the matter of any protest was a "Foreign Office issue" and that it was not appropriate for Newton, who was going to meet trade officials.

The cabinet minister reportedly is due to double Iraq's line of credit to pounds 350 million for 1989 during 4-days of talks at the annual meeting of the joint Iraq-U.K. commission which starts in Baghdad on Friday.

Britain is one of the few countries to have maintained credit facilities to Iraq throughout its 8-year war with Iran and Newton's visit, coinciding with the holding of the Baghdad trade fair, is expected to give a boost to the 58 British firms competing for business.

Responding for the Foreign Office, Minister of State Lord Glenarthur dismissed Lord Cledwyn's demand that Newton should make representations during his trip about the concern felt in the House of Lords about Iraq's persecution of its Kurdish community.

Only after Iraq's gas massacre at Halabjah in March this year has the British Government formally condemned the Baghdad regime and the Foreign Office says that it has made its stand "clear" and has no plans to make further protests.

Musavi Encourages Scientists-Research Ties

LD3110094288 Tehran IRNA in English 0841 GMT 31 Oct 88

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 31, IRNA—Prime Minister Hoseyn Musavi said Sunday Iranian scientists abroad should maintain their contacts with Iranian universities and research institutes in order to serve their nation.

The prime minister made the remark in a meeting with a group of scientists and researchers participating in the math-physics seminar in Ramsar, Mazandaran Province last week. Present in the meeting were also Education Minister Mohammad 'Ali Najafi and head of Iran's Atomic Energy Organisation Reza Amrollahi.

Some 150 researchers, scholars and professors from Iranian and foreign universities participated in the three-day seminar which ended Saturday. It was organised by the mathematics and physics center of Iran's Atomic Energy Organisation.

PRC Oil Official Meets With Aqazadeh

LD0111131988 Tehran IRNA in English 0843 GMT 1 Nov 88

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 1, IRNA—Expansion of Tehran-Beijing cooperation in transfer of technology and trade exchanges were discussed in a meeting of the visiting Chinese general manager of the national oil and gas cooperation Wang Tao and Iran's Oil Minister Gholamreza Aqazadeh here Monday.

The two sides expressed satisfaction with the trend of mutual politico-economic relations.

Wang Tao supported Iran's efforts to stabilise oil prices and invited Aqazadeh to visit Chinese oil industries. The invitation was accepted and the visit was agreed to be made at a convenient future occasion. Wang Tao arrived here on October 24.

PRC Minister Arrives for Industrial Ties Talks

LD3110093488 Tehran IRNA in English 0820 GMT 31 Oct 88

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 31, IRNA—Chinese Deputy Minister of Machine Building and Electronics Industries Zhao Mingsheng arrived here Sunday night and was welcomed at the airport by Iran's deputy heavy industries minister.

During his week-long visit, Zhao Mingsheng is to discuss expansion of Tehran-Beijing industrial ties, and visit factories and industrial centers in Tabriz (East Azarbayjan), Arak (Central) and Esfahan (Esfahan) Provinces.

Discusses Machine Exports

LD0211095788 Tehran IRNA in English 1640 GMT 1 Nov 88

[Text] Tabriz, East Azarbayjan Prov., Nov. 1, IRNA—Iran and China enjoy ample grounds for industrial cooperation through which the two countries can increase the volume of bilateral trade exchanges, said the visiting Chinese minister of machine building, electronics and industries.

Zhao Mingsheng and his entourage who arrived in Tehran Sunday are currently touring industrial sites in this northwestern city.

He also said China annually exports 1,000 different types of manufactured goods, including machinery and machine tools to Iran, and added that his visit was aimed at exploring grounds for industrial and technical cooperation and exchange of technological data.

In response, Iran's deputy industries minister noted that the Islamic Republic and the People's Republic of China are cooperating in several industrial projects including ship building, power plants and oil refinery, since the victory of the Islamic revolution (1979).

He termed the Chinese delegation's visit as a "turning point" in technological data exchanges and implementation of joint heavy industries projects. Iran has taken primary steps to manufacture low capacity hydroelectric power plants with the help of Chinese technology, he said.

Promises Computer Components

LD0211104588 Tehran IRNA in English 0915 GMT 2 Nov 88

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 2, IRNA—Visiting Chinese Deputy Minister of Machine Building and Electronics Industries Zhao Mingsheng said here Wednesday that China is ready and willing to supply "Pars Electronic Company" of Iran with parts and computer components. He made the remark in his visit of the company's plant here Wednesday morning.

Zhao added that in return for those parts China would buy TV sets and computers from Iran.

Danish Official Discusses Trade With Musavi

LD0111132588 Tehran IRNA in English 0712 GMT 1 Nov 88

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 1 IRNA—The visiting Danish Deputy Foreign Minister for Economic Affairs K. Eric Tygesen in a meeting with Prime Minister Hoseyn Musavi here Monday delivered a message from Premier Poul Schluter of Denmark.

Musavi thanked the Danish official for the message which called for expansion of bilateral relations and welcomed the proposal on Denmark's participation in post-war reconstruction projects in Iran. Musavi said that the post-war period provides a good opportunity for reconstruction and Iran would like to accomplish this task in an atmosphere of understanding and equal relations with other countries.

The premier expressed hope that through backing of other countries the U.N. Resolution 598 for ending the Iraq-Iran war will be fully implemented.

Tygesen who arrived here last Friday heading a 46-man delegation expressed support of his country for the U.N. resolution. As a member of the European Economic Community he called for promotion of EEC cooperation with the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Meanwhile Tygesen met with Iran's minister of economic and financial affairs Mohammad Javad Iravani Monday evening. Iravani told the Danish official that in

Iran's development plans agriculture is given top priority. He added that Iran could make use of Denmark's experience in the fields of agriculture, livestock breeding and affiliate industries.

In order to promote bilateral relations, Iravani said Denmark should activate its economic relations with Iran by granting rights and privileges common in international trade.

Iravani said that the two countries can cooperate in the field of pharmaceutical industries. He added that the Islamic Republic of Iran by meeting its international financial obligations has secured itself a sound position in international monetary and banking circles.

The Danish official expressed satisfaction with his talks with the Iranian officials and said that his country was willing to cooperate with Iran in agricultural fields. He also called for holding of an agriculture symposium by Iran and Denmark.

2d Round of Talks Held With Omani Minister
LD0211105488 Tehran IRNA in English 1631 GMT 1 Nov 88

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 1, IRNA—Second round of talks between Iranian and Omani oil ministers was held Tuesday on bilateral cooperation and issues concerning the world oil market.

Sa'id Ahmad al-Shanfari and Gholamreza Aqazadeh expressing satisfaction over the trend of talks, hoped the discussion would lead to an oil agreement between the two countries.

The Omani minister of petroleum and minerals arrived in Tehran Monday and is to leave here for Muscat Wednesday.

140 Pakistanis Arrested for Unauthorized Fishing
LD3110102888 Tehran IRNA in English 1013 GMT 31 Oct 88

[Text] Bandar-e 'Abbas, Hormozgan Prov., Oct. 31, IRNA—140 Pakistanis were arrested for unauthorised fishing of shrimps at Bandar-e Kolahi (port), in this southern province last week, and 10 Pakistani launches were seized by the port authorities.

Pakistani fishermen sporadically sail onto the coastal waters of Iran for fishing prime-quality Iranian shrimps.

Results of Anti-Drug Program Detailed
LD3110234588 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1600 GMT 31 Oct 88

[Text] The deputy of information and operational affairs of the Islamic Revolution Committees announced that, as a consequence of implementation of the Val-'Adiyat scheme, so far more than 7,000 drug smugglers have been arrested and 150 drug-smuggling gangs have been routed nationwide. He called the scheme as a fundamental and basic scheme of the Islamic Revolution Committees aimed at providing the basis for the final program for fighting illicit drugs and smugglers.

He added: During the current year, more than 20 tonnes of all types of illicit drugs were uncovered by the Islamic Revolution Guards of the committees, 15 tonnes of which is due to the Val-'Adiyat scheme.

Mar-Sep Nonoil Exports Total $399 Million
LD0211053788 Tehran IRNA in English 1559 GMT 1 Nov 88

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 1, IRNA—A total of 517,000 tons of non-oil goods worth $399 million were exported between March 21-September 22, this year.

The customs office in a report released here Tuesday said the exports included hand-woven carpets, pistachios, animal hides and intestines, caviar, construction materials, textiles, fish and fresh and dried fruits.

Completion of Industrial Complexes Planned
NC3010090488 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 30 Oct 88

[Text] The Ahvaz and Esfahan Mobarakeh metallurgical complexes and some other ironstone complexes, as well as some factories that were not completed because of the war, will be finished and put into operation as a result of an allocation of 106 billion rials by the Ministry of Mines and Metals.

In an interview with the Central News Unit correspondent, Mr Ayatollahi, the mines and metals minister who is currently on a visit Mianeh District in East Azarbayjan Province, spoke about the mineral richness of the District, and said: The government has officially approved the extraction of 15,000 tons of perlite annually. Experts also are studying the possible construction of a steel mill in this district.

According to this report, during his tour of East Azarbayjan Province, the mines and metals minister assessed the various issues pertaining to mines in the Districts of Mianeh, Khalkhal, Givi, and Ardabil.

RESALAT Editorial on Reconstruction
NC3110220888 Tehran RESALAT in Persian 26 Oct 88 pp 1, 12

["Part I" of editorial by RESALAT's political department: "Who Is Responsible for Implementing the Policies of the Supreme Council for Reconstruction?"]

[Excerpts] More than three months have elapsed since the acceptance of Resolution No 598. The issue of "the country's reconstruction" has been propagated first, on the expert level and then on the level of the common

man. Among the highest echelons of the country's officials, a council has been set up and his eminence the leader has propounded his general position on reconstruction, particularly its economic implementation. He has also specified a reconstruction course in domestic and foreign trade, agriculture, industry, and the defense industries.

The work of setting policy has begun and the president, as the highest authority of the Supreme Council of Reconstruction, has announced the council's initial decisions. Most conspicuous of all is that the decisions made will tangibly rectify the country's economic course and make it compulsory for the cabinet to pave overtly the way for changes in the way laws are implemented and in the accepted patterns. But in such circumstances, the government, which is the highest and most important executive body, is even now deprived of a minister of commerce! [passage omitted]

Even though in the past our country had been afflicted by kind of "day to day" malaise and neglected to embark on an extensive and all-encompassing plan—in view of the fact that the task of a ministry is to attend to these very day-to-day details—the need for a competent and dedicated minister is being felt today more than ever.

If we are determined to carry out our decisions and the results of our policies, and if we do not wish to tread the same path as before, we should also think of choosing an able commerce minister. Otherwise, the council's most important decisions will remain sterile and fruitless, and the country's economy will once again crawl along without any planning or hope. [passage omitted]

Perhaps it is because we previously witnessed so many erroneous and incorrect policies that the prospect of the new policies' failure does not seem very important. However, we should state that from a cultural point of view, it is necessary that the doubts, uncertainties, and pessimism which have become so rampant should be removed with the implementation of these new policies.

We insist on the election of a commerce minister because he will not only be instrumental in driving home the necessity of creating economic changes, but also because this accentuates the concommitant social and mental dangers stemming from the absence of the correct implementation and success of the new policies.

We are not questioning who will shoulder the burden of our tottering and devasted commerce when we mention the non-election and introduction of a commerce minister! Our question is, who is willing to give a new form to conditions of the past and reshape them?

This point is mentioned not to detract from the credibility of the decisions made by the Supreme Council for Reconstruction but instead to draw attention to the complicated nature of the work in the executive system within the infrastructure of trade affairs.

In our opinion, the acumen, competence, and ability of a commerce minister's management, his past record of experience, and his perception of the society can change the whole outlook of success or failure!

In the light of the above, it would be appropriate to ask how the president, prime minister, and, most important of all, the Islamic Majlis are going to act.

Nepal

'Major Cabinet Reshuffle' Announced

BK0111062088 Hong Kong AFP in English 1958 GMT 31 Oct 88

[Text] Kathmandu, Oct 31 (AFP)—King Birendra of Nepal on Monday made a major cabinet reshuffle, dropping five senior ministers, on the recommendation of Prime Minister Marich Man Singh Shrestha, it was officially announced here.

In the new cabinet, Mr Shrestha retains the portfolio of royal palace affairs and defence while Minister Shailendra Kumar Upadhyaya retains the foreign affairs portfolio and Bharat Bahadur Pradhan the finance portfolio, the Royal Press Secretariat said in a press release.

Five senior ministers including Pashupati Rana, minister for Panchayat and local development, Padma Sunder Lawate, minister for land reform and management, Dr Yadav Prasad Pant, minister for water resources, Dil Bahadur Shrestha, minister for local supply and Bala Ram Ghartimagar, minister for industry, were dropped, the official announcement said.

Most of the ministers who were dropped have had differences of opinion with Mr Shrestha, sources close to the prime minister said.

The new cabinet includes 33 members with fourteen cabinet-rank ministers, seven state ministers and twelve assistant ministers.

There were three new cabinet appointees—Minister of Industry Rabindra Nath Sharma, Minister of Panchayat and Local Development Rakash Bahadur Singh, and Minister of Social Welfare and Labour Lila Raj Bista.

Shushila Thapa, the only woman in the cabinet, retained the health portfolio. The single minister representing the Moslem community, Mohammad Mohshin, retained the tourism portfolio.

There was one new entrant among the seven state ministers, Kamal Thapa, who received the communications portfolio.

Mr Thapa had resigned as chairman of the All-Nepal Football Association following a football stampede on March 12 that left 72 people dead and 250 injured.

Minister of State for Home Niranjan Thapa retained his portfolio. Mr Thapa has been accused by the press and parliament of allowing police brutality during the football stampede and for police failure to protect a former National Panchayat (parliament) member, Karna Prasad Hyonju.

Mr Hyonju was beaten to death by an angry group of banned Marxist and Leninists in Bhaktapur District 16 kilometers east of Kathmandu in August for allegedly distributing earthquake relief materials unfairly.

Shrestha's Position Strengthened

BK0211091988 Hong Kong AFP in English 0907 GMT 2 Nov 88

[By Kedar Man Singh]

[Text] Kathmandu, Nov 2 (AFP)—Prime Minister Marich Man Shrestha has emerged stronger from a major cabinet reshuffle Monday and is already eyeing general elections planned for 1991, analysts here say.

Mr. Shrestha has successfully shunted aside two powerful MP's, Pashupati Shumshere Rana and Yadav Prasad Pant, in the third reshuffling of his cabinet since it was formed in June 1986.

Both Mr. Rana and Mr. Pant had been vying to become prime minister and were accused of conspiring against Mr. Shrestha during the June-September session of the partyless National Panchayat (Parliament).

During the session, Mr. Shrestha was harassed by opponents including two former prime minister, Surya Bahadur Thapa and Lokendra Bahadur Chand, and two former National Panchayat chairmen, Nain Bahadur Swanr and Rajeswore Devkota.

Barely a week after the opening of the 39th session, anti-Shrestha members began a vociferous campaign against him and succeeded in collecting 53 signatures on a no-confidence motion in the 140-seat chamber.

Meanwhile, three events—a soccer stampede resulting in the death of 72 people in March, the assassination in August in broad daylight of a former MP, and a devastating earthquake August 21—were influencing Nepalese politics.

The stampede occurred when a sudden hailstorm packing 80 mile-an-hour (120 kilometers per hour) winds caused a crowd of 25,000 soccer fans to panic.

Education Minister Keshar Bahadur Bista, who was also chairman of the National Sports Council, resigned in May over the incident.

Panachayatr activist Karna Prasad Hyonju, who had deserted an outlawed Marxist-Leninist prty, was beaten to death by party activists in Bhaktapur—a satellite city 16 kilometers (10 miles) east of Kathmandu.

Mr. Hyonju's murder angered the public, and MP's seized the opportunity to attack Mr. Shrestha, demanding his resignation for failure to maintain law and order in Nepal, analysts said.

During this period, Mr. Rana, Mr. Pant, Padma Sundar Lawate, Dil Bahadur Shrestha and two other state ministers, Buddhi Man Tamang and Gangan Jung Bahadur Singh, allegedly remained silent but did not support the prime minister.

Then the earthquake, measuring 6.7 on the Richter scale, killed 721 people and injured more than 12,000 people and destroyed 66,000 houses in 27 districts, causing an economic crisis.

On Monday Mr. Shrestha was able to drop five non-cooperative cabinet-rank ministers—Mr. Rana, Mr. Pant, Mr. Lawate, Mr. Dil Bahadur Shrestha and Bala Ram Gharti Magar, the minister for industry.

And Mr. Shrestha has consolidated his support by asking King Birendra to retain Foreign Minister Shailendra Kumar, who played successful roles in the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation and the United Nations, and Finance Minister Bharat Bahadur Pradhan, an effective economic and fiscal planner, observers said.

Meanwhile, Mr. Shrestha has won over Rabindra Nath Sharma, an initiator of the no-confidence motion against the prime minister, persuading him to join the government with the industry portfolio.

A Panchayat activist, Mr. Sharma has already served in various ministries including home, communications, agriculture and forestry. His alliance with Mr. Shrestha has apparently weakened the opposition, observers said.

Mr. Shrestha's commanding reshuffle is expected to help him deal with Nepal's grave economic situation in the aftermath of the earthquake and bolster his chances for victory in the May 1991 general election, observers said.

Pakistan

Defense Minister Warns Against 'Bogus Voting'

BK0111163088 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 1 Nov 88

[Text] The defense minister, Mr Mahmud A. Haroon, has said the Armed Forces and the civil administration will not allow anybody to disturb the peaceful holding of the forthcoming general elections. In an interview with APP [ASSOCIATED PRESS OF PAKISTAN] in Islamabad today he said any attempt to forcibly enter a polling

station to cast the vote without showing of national identity card will be strictly dealt with. He said President Ghulam Ishaq Khan and the chief of Army Staff, General Aslam Beg, have time and again expressed their determination to hold the elections on schedule in a fair and peaceful manner.

The defense minister said introduction of national identification cards for voting has been made necessary to ensure fair elections and check rigging and bogus voting. He said there is no justification to oppose this condition which can be the only effective way to check bogus voting.

Yaqub Khan Welcomes Afghan Consultative Assembly
BK0111160988 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 1 Nov 88

[Text] Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan has said that Pakistan and Saudi Arabia hold identical views on regional and international issues, including Afghanistan, the Persian Gulf, and the Middle East. He was talking to newsmen this evening at Islamabad airport on his return home after a 2-day visit to Saudi Arabia. In Saudi Arabia he held detailed talks with Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal on various issues. He held separate talks with King Fahd.

The foreign minister said ways to strengthen peace and stability in the region were reviewed during his talks with his Saudi counterpart, and the two sides stressed the importance of the solidarity and integrity of the Islamic world. They decided to hold frequent consultations to promote the common objectives of enhancing cooperation between Islamic nations.

Referring to bilateral ties, the foreign minister said he was greatly impressed by the good wishes and interest conveyed by King Fahd for peace, prosperity, and stability in Pakistan. He said that the Saudi king expressed the hope that the coming elections in Pakistan would be completed in a very good manner, thereby boosting Pakistan's dignity and honor. Yaqub Khan said that apart from briefing the Saudi foreign minister on the latest situation in Afghanistan and the developments following the Geneva negotiations, he also stressed the need for taking steps in addition to the Geneva negotiations to achieve a comprehensive settlement.

Foreign Minister Yaqub Khan said that the recent announcement by the Afghan alliance leaders on the election of a consultative assembly may serve as an important step toward the formation of a broad-based government, adding that it will prove to be the guarantee required to end the fighting in that country and to enable the Afghan refugees to return to their homes. He said that the alliance did not like the attempts to settle the dispute on the basis of power-sharing in Afghanistan, and in fact rejected it. He said that attention during the next negotiations should focus on the new proposal for the consultative assembly. The foreign minister said that the Afghans should be allowed to determine their own fate.

U.S. Ambassador Holds News Conference
BK0211100288 Rawalpindi HAIDER in Urdu 21 Oct 88 p 5

[Editorial: "The Statement of the U.S. Ambassador"]

[Text] Addressing a news conference in Peshawar, U.S. Ambassador Robert Oakley has said that the United States is not against any political party in Pakistan. He said after the elections in Pakistan and the resolution of the Afghanistan issue, relations between the United States and Pakistan will not be affected. Pakistan-U.S. relations do not depend upon the presence of the Soviet troops in Afghanistan. In reply to a question, he said whichever party comes to power in Pakistan, it will not have any bearing on Pakistan-U.S. relations. He said the U.S. leaders support Pakistan in its efforts to carry forward its constitutional process. On the Afghanistan issue he said the United States wants the completion of the Soviet troop withdrawal, the termination of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan, and the realization of the right of self determination for the Afghan people. Our struggle will last until these objectives are achieved. He said the United States cannot conceive of any broad-based government [in Afghanistan] without the mujahidin.

The U.S. ambassador, no doubt, has made a realistic assessment of Pakistan-U.S. relations. It is correct to say that Pakistan-U.S. relations are not dependent on the Afghanistan issue. However, it cannot be denied that the United States began giving special attention to Pakistan after the arrival of the Soviet forces in Afghanistan. Although, in the beginning, some political elements started showing resistance toward the revolution [in Afghanistan], since then the United States started directly supporting that resistance. The financial assistance and transmission of arms to the mujahidin was possible only through Pakistan. Therefore, the United States had to extend a hand of friendship to Pakistan to a greater extent. We do not agree with the point that Pakistan-U.S. relations will suffer a setback after a solution to the Afghanistan problem. However, to a certain extent, there will be an apparent decline in the interest of the United States in Pakistan. It is quite natural.

As far as political affairs in Pakistan are concerned, we feel that the United States has always taken interest in them. To protect its interests, the United States has

covertly played a significant role in the political affairs of Pakistan. Owing to this, several political circles viewed this tendency of the United States with concern and vehemently criticized it. Now that the U.S. ambassador says that the United States is little interested to see which party comes to power in Pakistan, it is indeed something desirable. However, at this juncture, our politicians should also adopt a positive attitude based on national interests. With a desire for power, putting aside national interests, some politicians are issuing statements that are intended to ingratiate themselves with the United States. This approach is regrettable. We would like to refer to the statement made by Begum Nusrat Bhutto a few days ago that if her party comes to power, she will permit the United States to inspect the Kahuta plant [nuclear power plant at Kahuta]. These maneuvers and tendencies against national interests are regrettable. Politicians should not adopt a stand against national interests.

In the statement of the U.S. ambassador on the Afghanistan issue that the United States wants an end to the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan as well as to see the completion of the Soviet troop withdrawal, we find a contradicting tendency of the United States. The People's Democratic Party is the political party now in power in Afghanistan. Whether this party is in power or not, by all means its existence is imperative for a democratic society. The United States does not have any right to want the demise of any political party having leftist ideologies in Afghanistan. If it is interested in the democratic process and democracy, by all means, it will have to tolerate the presence of such parties in Afghanistan.

Sri Lanka

Indian Troops Kill 2 LTTE Members in Jaffna

BK0111132288 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 1 Nov 88

[Text] In Sri Lanka, two LTTE personnel were killed in an encounter with the Peacekeeping Force [PKF] in Jaffna sector during the last 24 hours. According to information received in New Delhi a large number of suspects were apprehended during intensive search and cordon operations. In the Batticaloa Sector, a LTTE camp was located and destroyed by the PKF. In the Vavuniya and Trincomalee sectors 14 LTTE suspects were apprehended.

Search for Sinhalese 'Militants' Continues

BK0211061088 Hong Kong AFP in English 0554 GMT 2 Nov 88

[Text] Colombo, Nov. 2 (AFP)—Troops and low-flying helicopters Wednesday continued a search in western Sri Lanka for Sinhalese militants who raided an Army camp and fled with a huge quantity of weapons after killing five men. The search was being carried out in nine administrative sections of Kurunegala and Gampaha Districts, north of Colombo, under a 48-hour curfew which went into effect Tuesday evening, a police spokesman here said.

The curfew was imposed some 15 hours after an estimated 75 men from the militant Janatha Vimukti Peramuna (JVP, People's Liberation Front) stormed the National Auxiliary Force training camp at Pannala in Kurunegala District.

Four soldiers, including an officer, a civilian and four attackers were killed during the raid Tuesday. The militants fled in two trucks with communications equipment, huge stocks of weaponry and ammunition. A government communique said the raiders took 20 Chinese-made T-56 assault rifles, six light machine guns, 178 shotguns, 252 .303 inch rifles and four pistols.

Soon after the pre-dawn attack, soldiers and helicopters began a hunt for members of the JVP in the two districts populated by the majority Sinhalese community, the main support base for the militant group which is violently anti-government and led a bloody insurgency in 1971.

"The search has drawn a blank (so far)," the police spokesman said. "But it is continuing." Hundreds of soldiers, besides police, were believed to be involved in the operation. Military sources said some of the stolen arms were recovered late Tuesday but there had been no further breakthroughs despite announcements of a cash reward of 1.5 million rupees (45,500 U.S. dollars), the highest ever, for their recovery.

Newspapers said the Pannala raid came despite a nationwide security alert issued by National Security Minister Lalith Athulathmudali late Monday warning against possible "subversive attacks". "The Pannala attack could have been averted if the alert call was well responded to," the SUN newspaper quoted officials as saying. No independent confirmation of the report was immediately available.

Meanwhile, the ruling United National Party (UNP) called upon the government to give more powers to security forces to effectively fight the JVP, which has been blamed for more than 500 murders over the past 15 months. A resolution passed by the UNP's policy-making working committee urged President Junius Jayewardene to remove "any hindrances in the way of the members of the security forces, who at the risk of their lives are protecting the people of this country from violence and intimidation by lawless groups."

The JVP renewed its violent campaign in July 1987 after India and Sri Lanka signed a peace pact to end a bloody Tamil separatist campaign. New Delhi has some 49,000 soldiers in Sri Lanka under the agreement. The JVP says the presence of the Indian Army is a violation of Sri Lanka's sovereignty.

Steps Taken To Deal With 3 Nov 'Subversive Plans'
BK0211115588 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 1124 GMT 2 Nov 88

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, 2 Nov (LANKAPUVATH)—The government acting on reliable information of subversive plans at disruption has taken all necessary steps to protect the interests of the public. A government communique issued today states that the government has reliable information that certain subversive elements will attempt to disrupt normalcy on Thursday, the 3rd November, 1988. The government has made all preparations and will take all steps necessary to protect the interests of the public.

These plans for the 3rd November of these subversive elements are only forerunners in a planned attempt to disrupt the presidential and parliamentary elections, and deny the people the right to vote. The activities of these subversives cannot be defeated by government alone. It needs public co-operation.

The public are requested by whatever act they can to help preserve normalcy. If the public fails, these elements will make further demands on the public and intrude into the lives of the ordinary people even more.

The public have to decide whether they are going to give into these ever increasing threats, or stand up for the democratic rights, to be free to get about their day to day activities and to be free to vote fearlessly at the forthcoming presidential and parliamentary elections.